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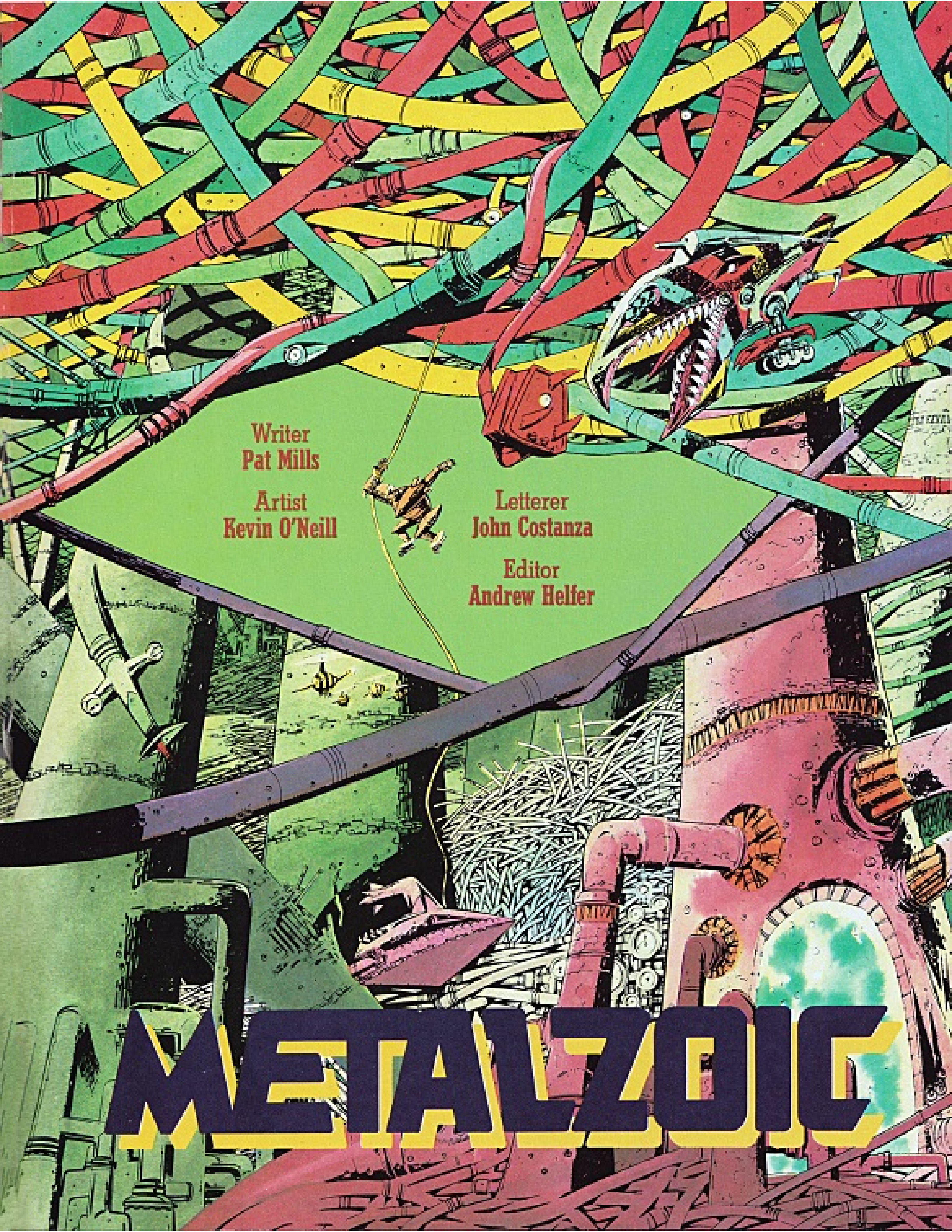
PAT MILLS & KEVIN O'NEILL

METALZOIC™

Bill Sienkiewicz 1986



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METALZOIC

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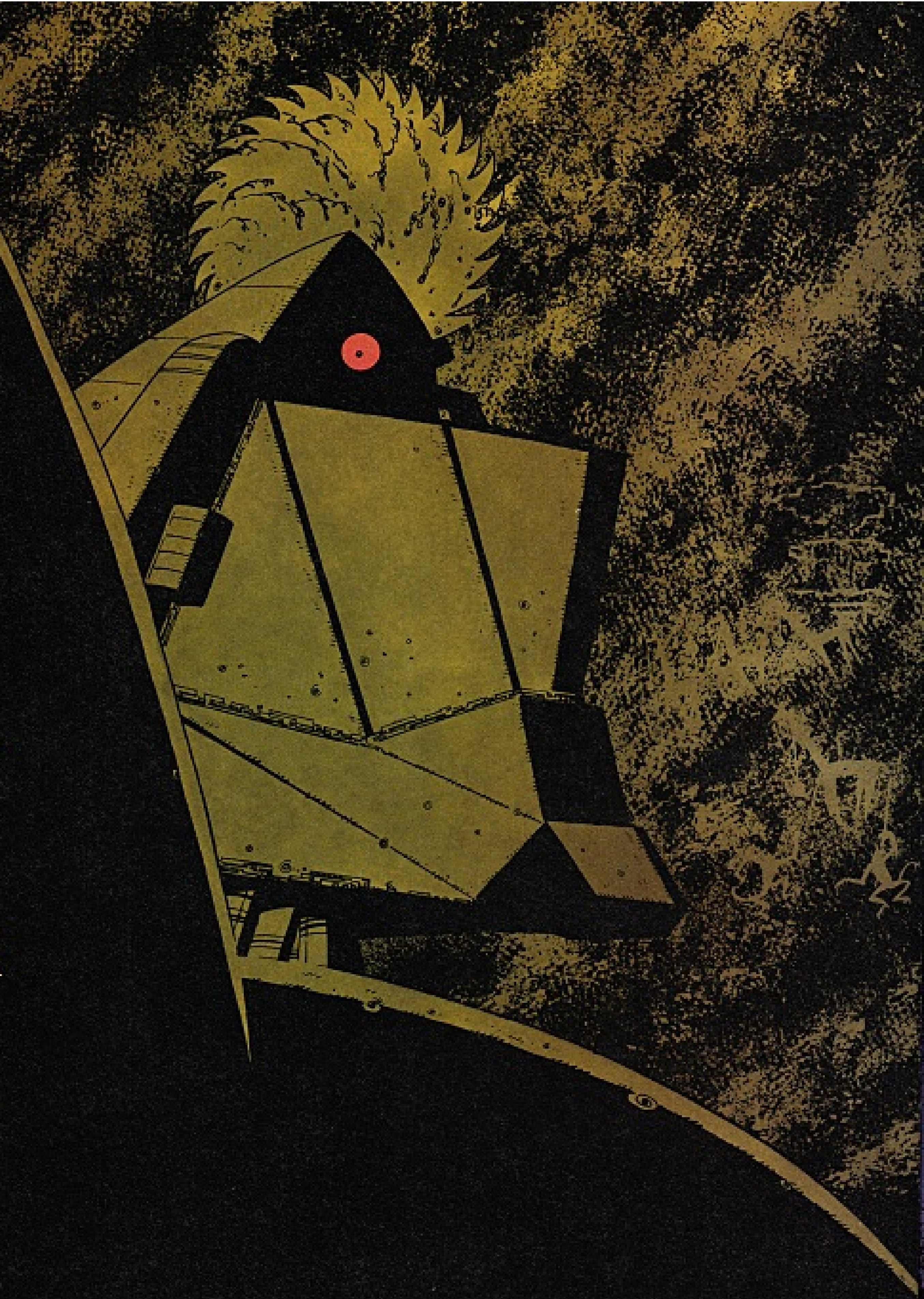
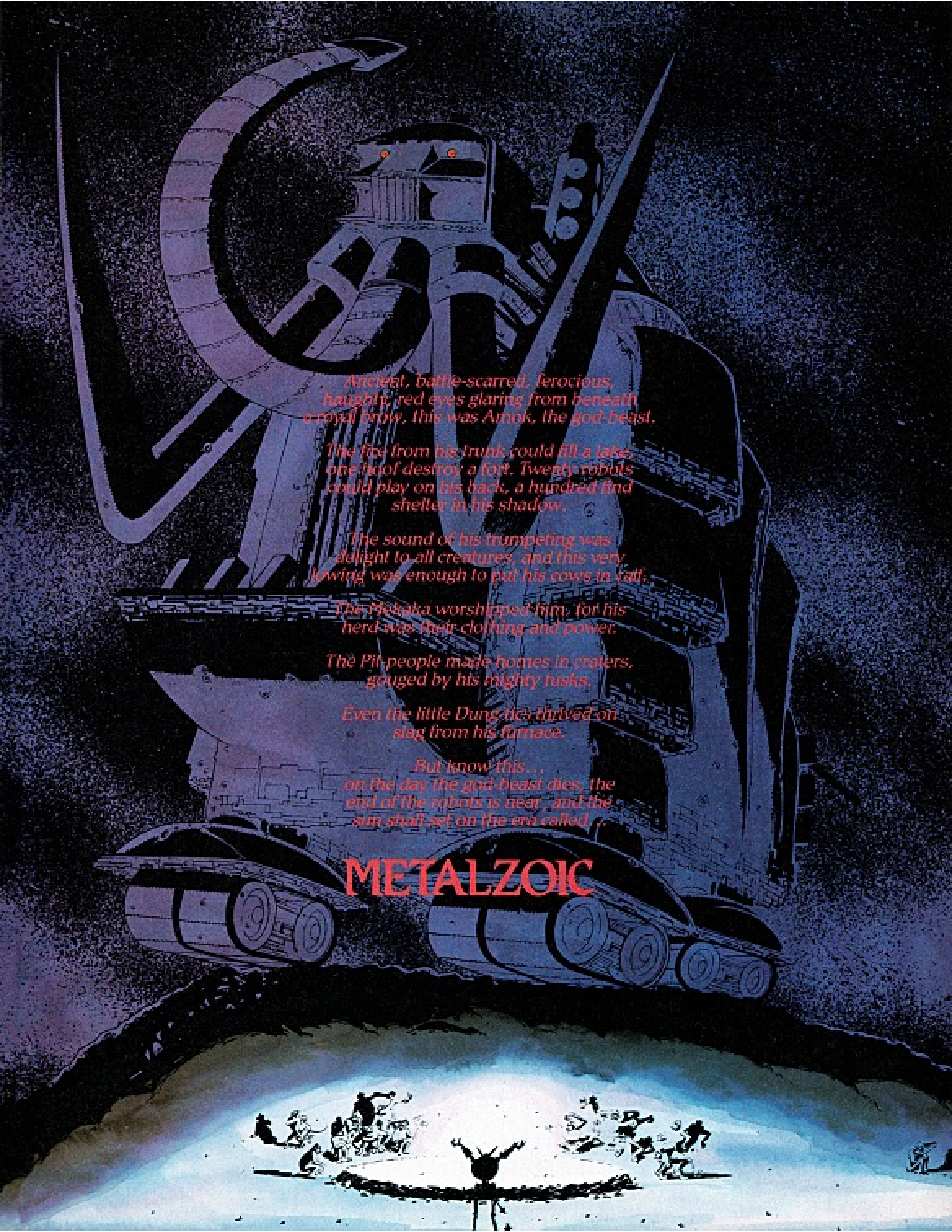




Ancient, battle-scarred, ferocious,
haughty, red eyes glaring from beneath
a royal brow, this was Amok, the god-beast.

The fire from his trunk could fill a lake,
one hoof destroy a fort. Twenty robots
could play on his back, a hundred find
shelter in his shadow.

The sound of his trumpeting was
delight to all creatures, and this very
lowing was enough to put his cows in calf.

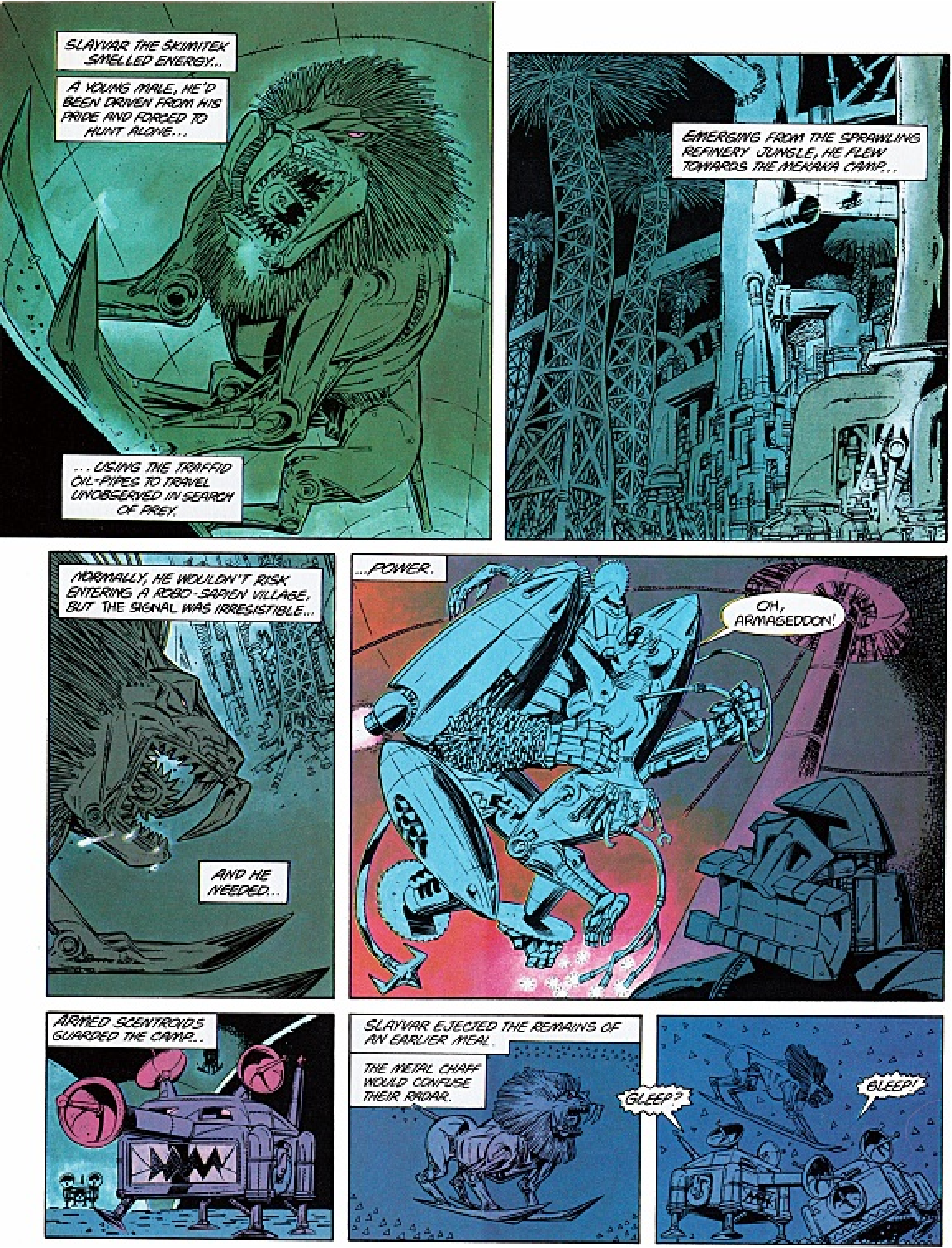
The Mekaka worshipped him, for his
herd was their clothing and power.

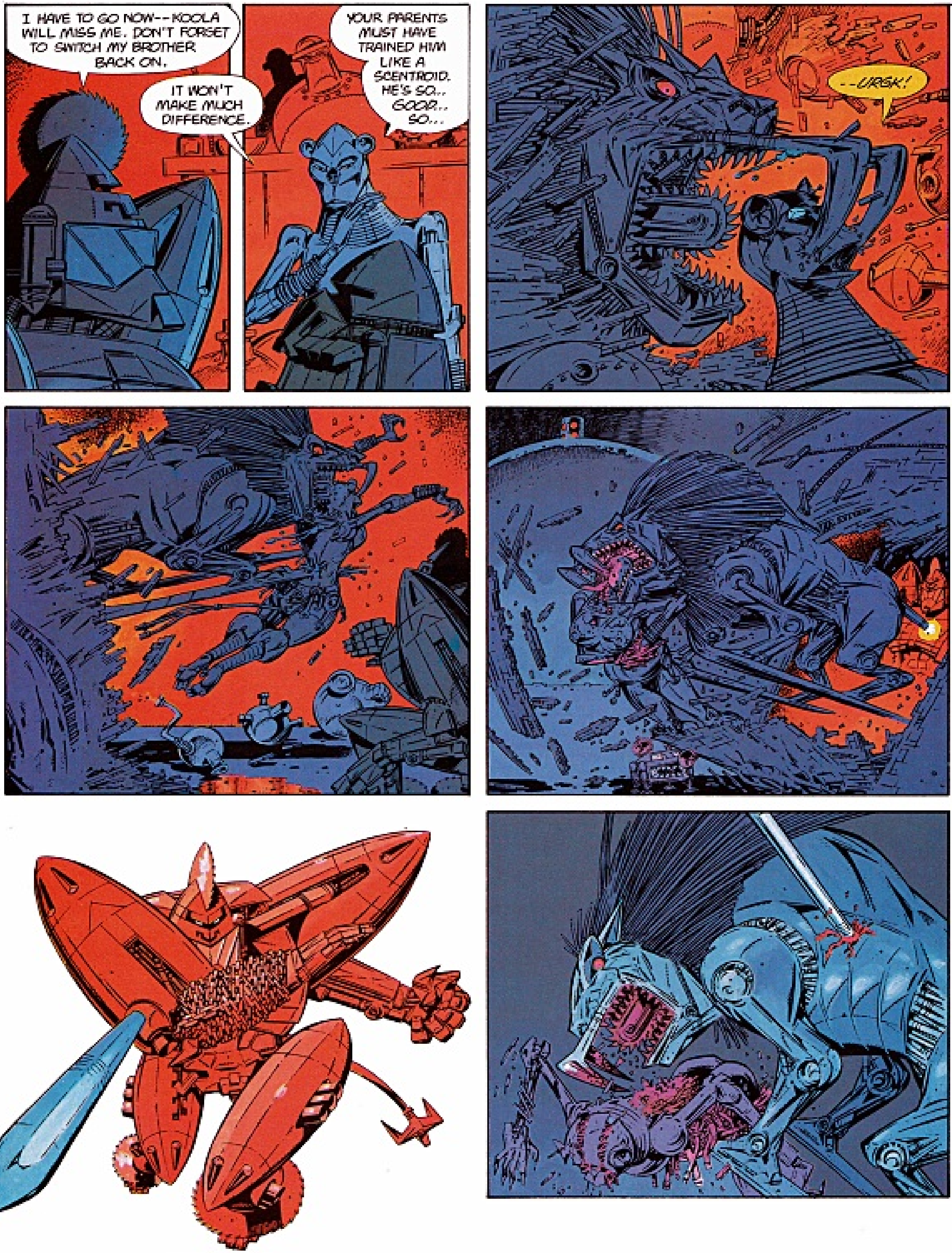
The Pit-people made homes in craters,
gouged by his mighty tusks.

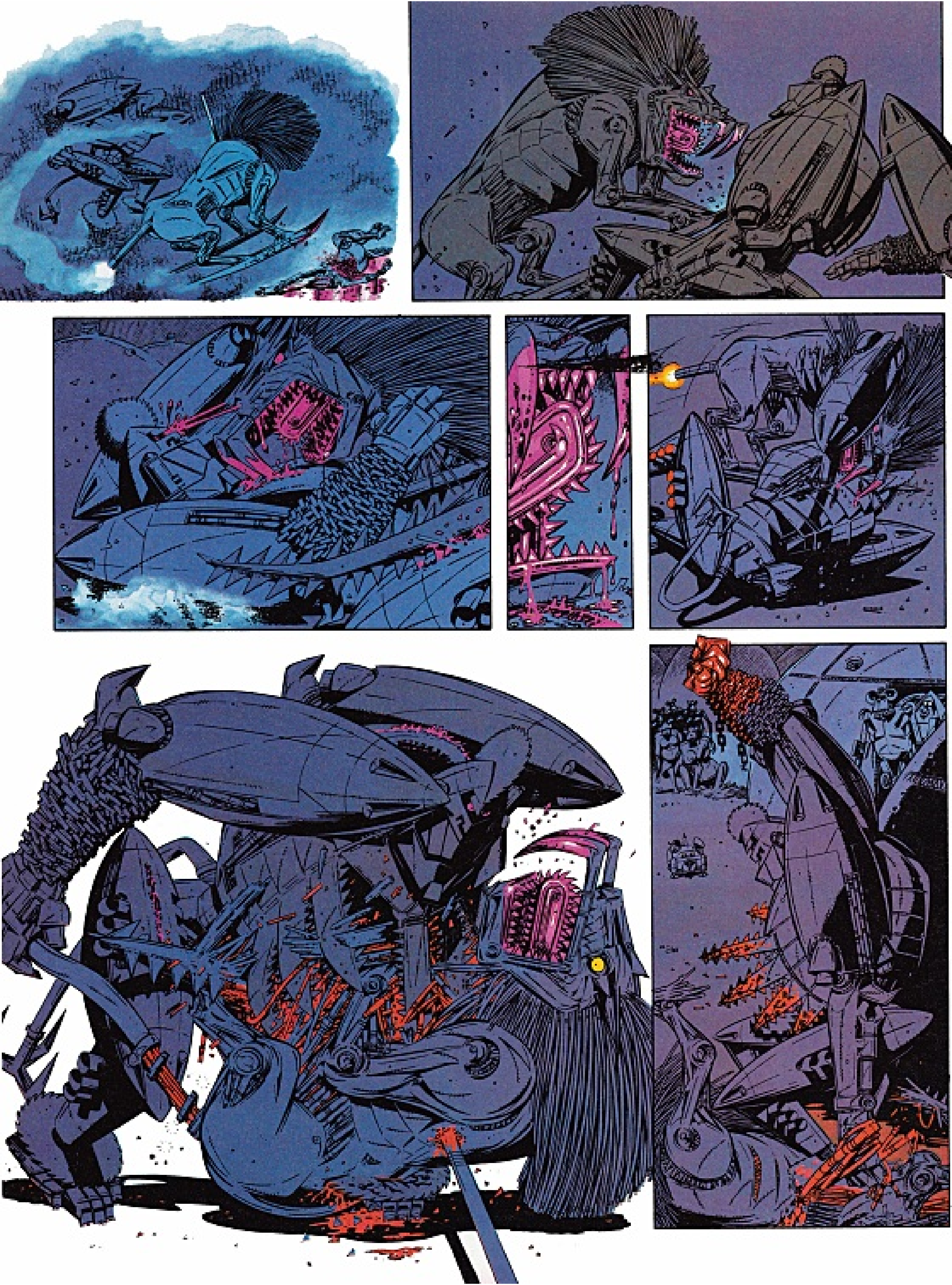
Even the little Dung-ties thrived on
slag from his furnace.

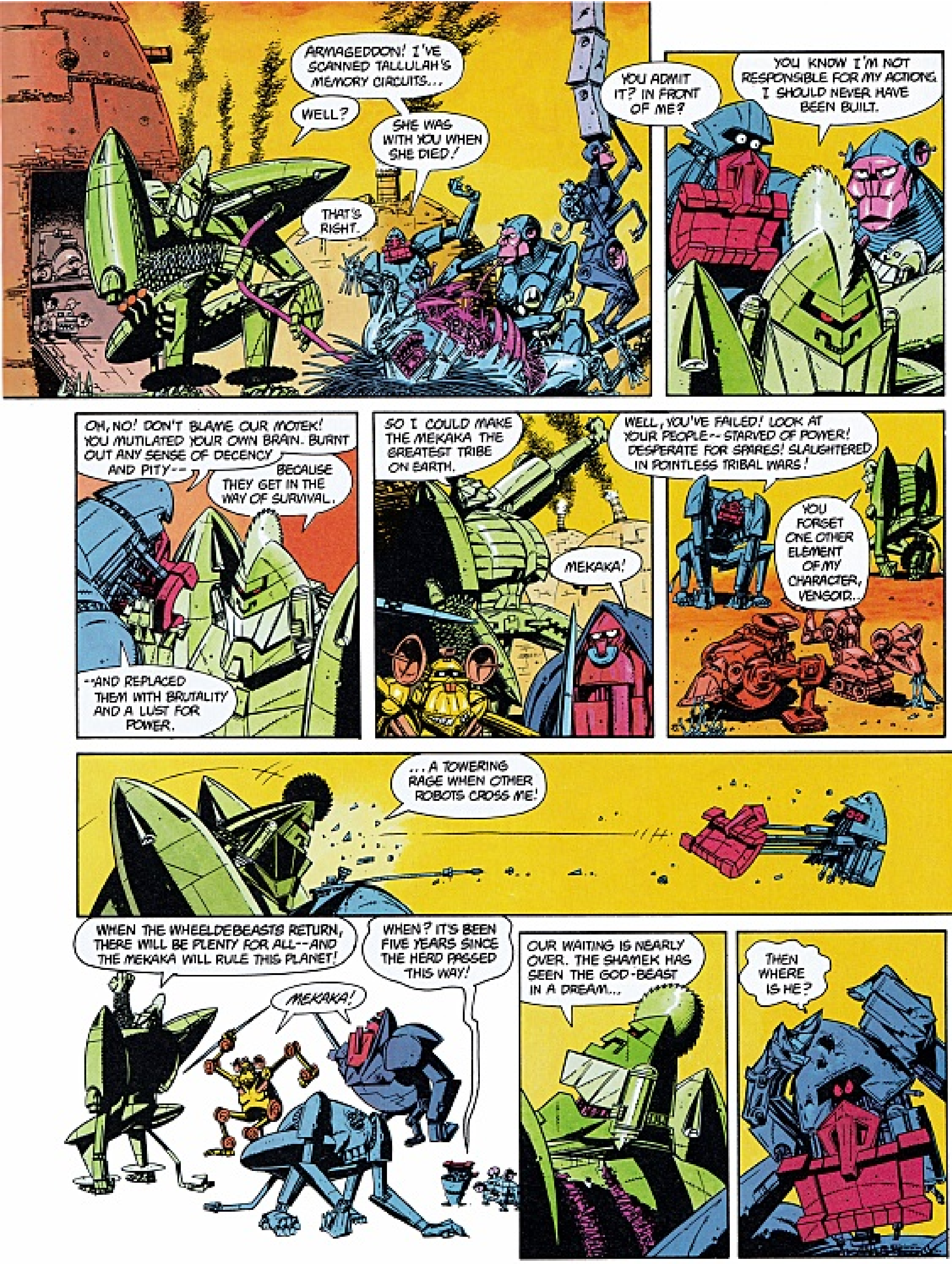
But know this...
on the day the god-beast dies, the
end of the robots is near, and the
sun shall set on the era called...

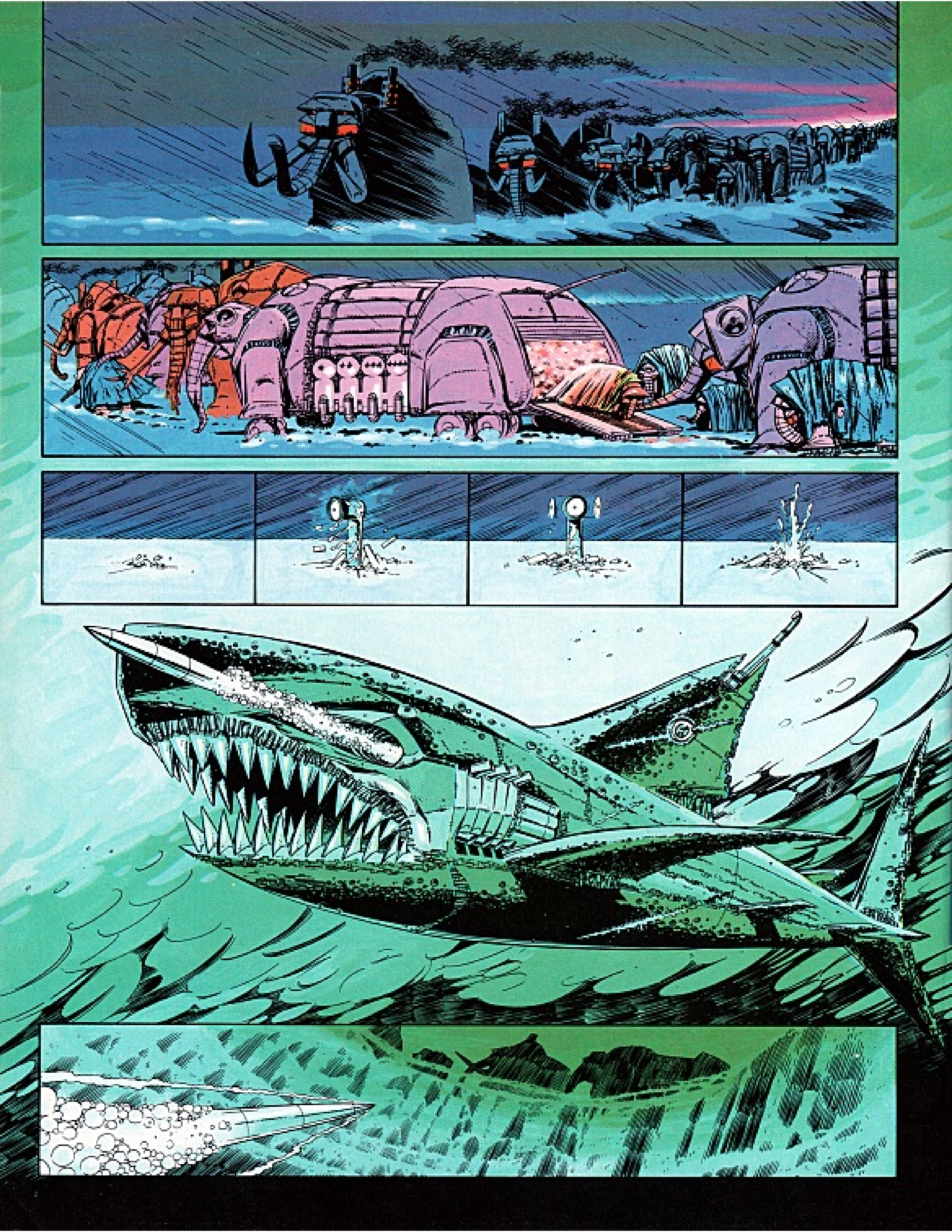
METALZOIC

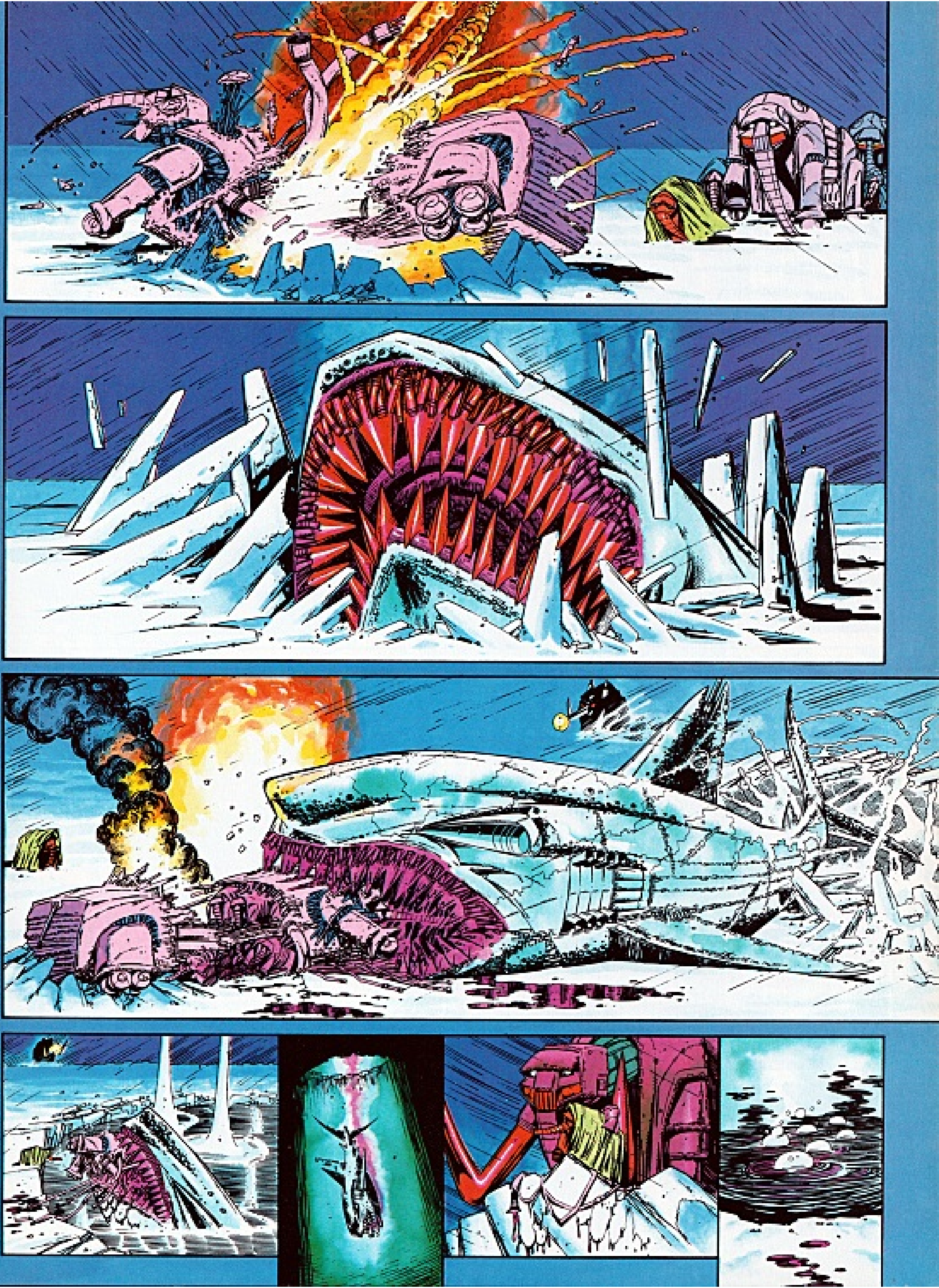

SLAYVAR THE SKIMITEK SMELLED ENERGY...
A YOUNG MALE, HE'D BEEN DRIVEN FROM HIS PRIDE AND FORCED TO HUNT ALONE...
...USING THE TRAFFID OIL-PIPES TO TRAVEL UNOBSERVED IN SEARCH OF PREY.
EMERGING FROM THE SPRAWLING REFINERY JUNGLE, HE FLEW TOWARDS THE MEKAKA CAMP...
NORMALLY, HE WOULDN'T RISK ENTERING A ROBO-SAPIEN VILLAGE, BUT THE SIGNAL WAS IRRESISTIBLE...
AND HE NEEDED...
...POWER.
OH, ARMAGEDDON!
ARMED SCENTROIDS GUARDED THE CAMP...
SLAYVAR EJECTED THE REMAINS OF AN EARLIER MEAL.
THE METAL CHAFF WOULD CONFUSE THEIR RADAR.
GLEEP?
BLEEP!

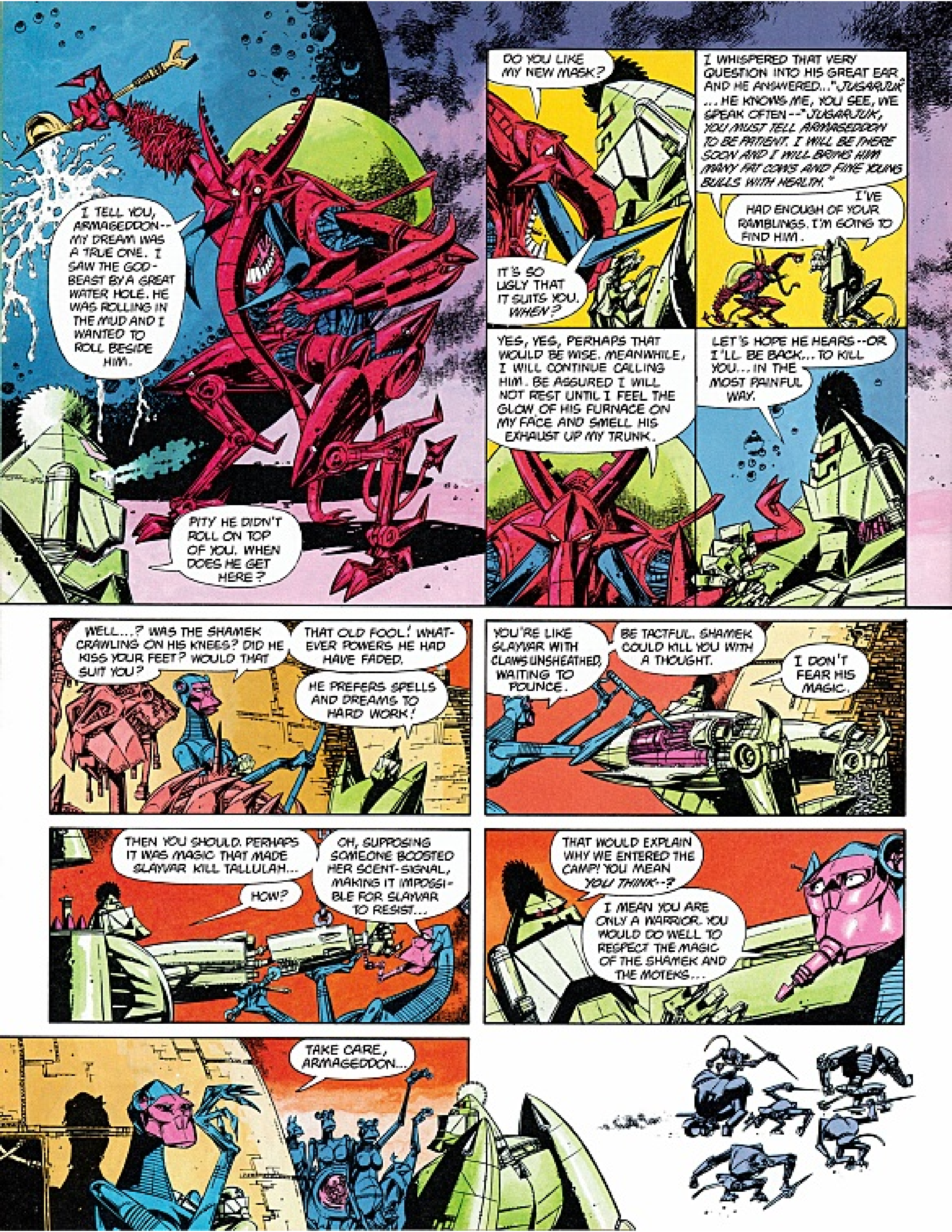

I HAVE TO GO NOW--KOOLA WILL MISS ME. DON'T FORGET TO SWITCH MY BROTHER BACK ON.
IT WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE.
YOUR PARENTS MUST HAVE TRAINED HIM LIKE A SCENTROID. HE'S SO.. GOOD.. SO...
--URGK!

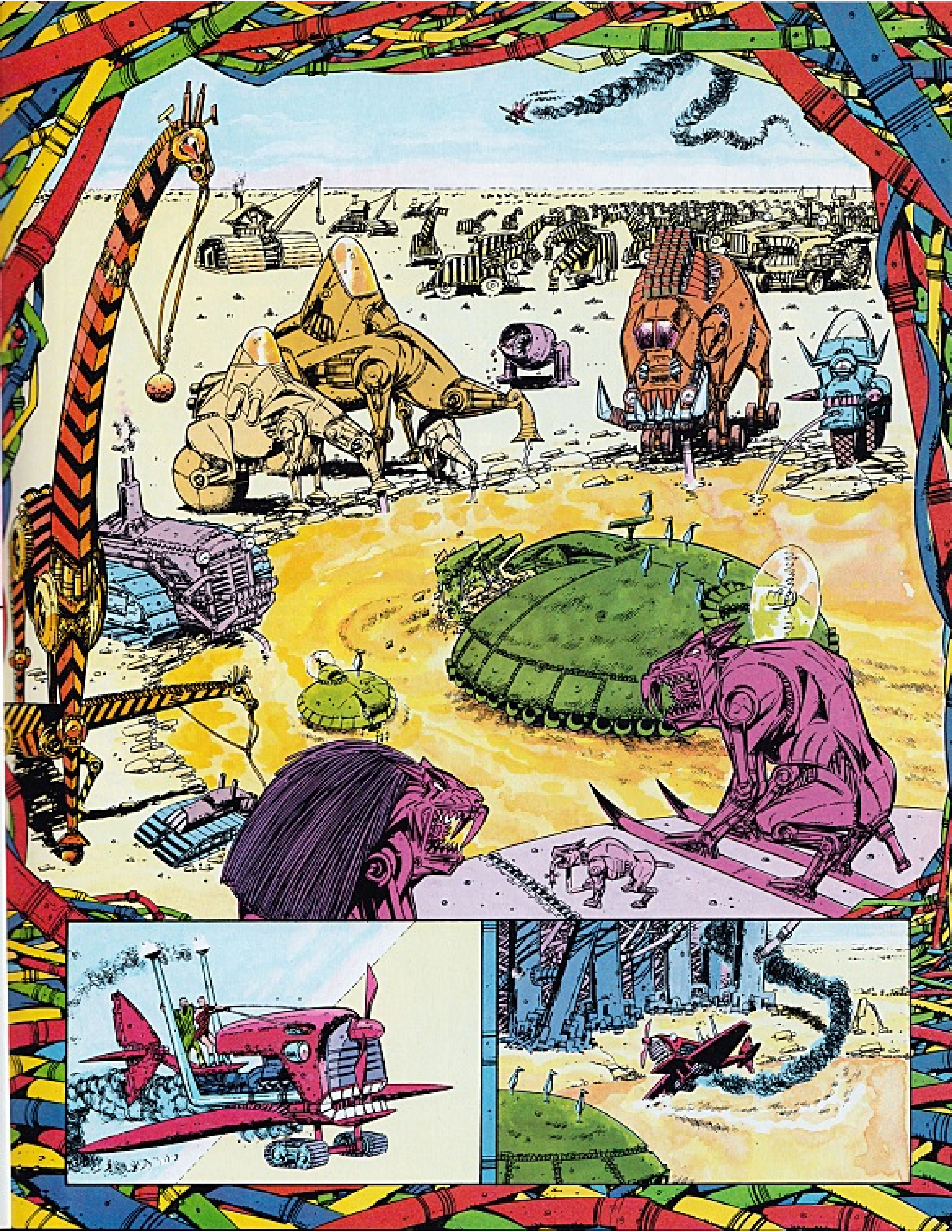


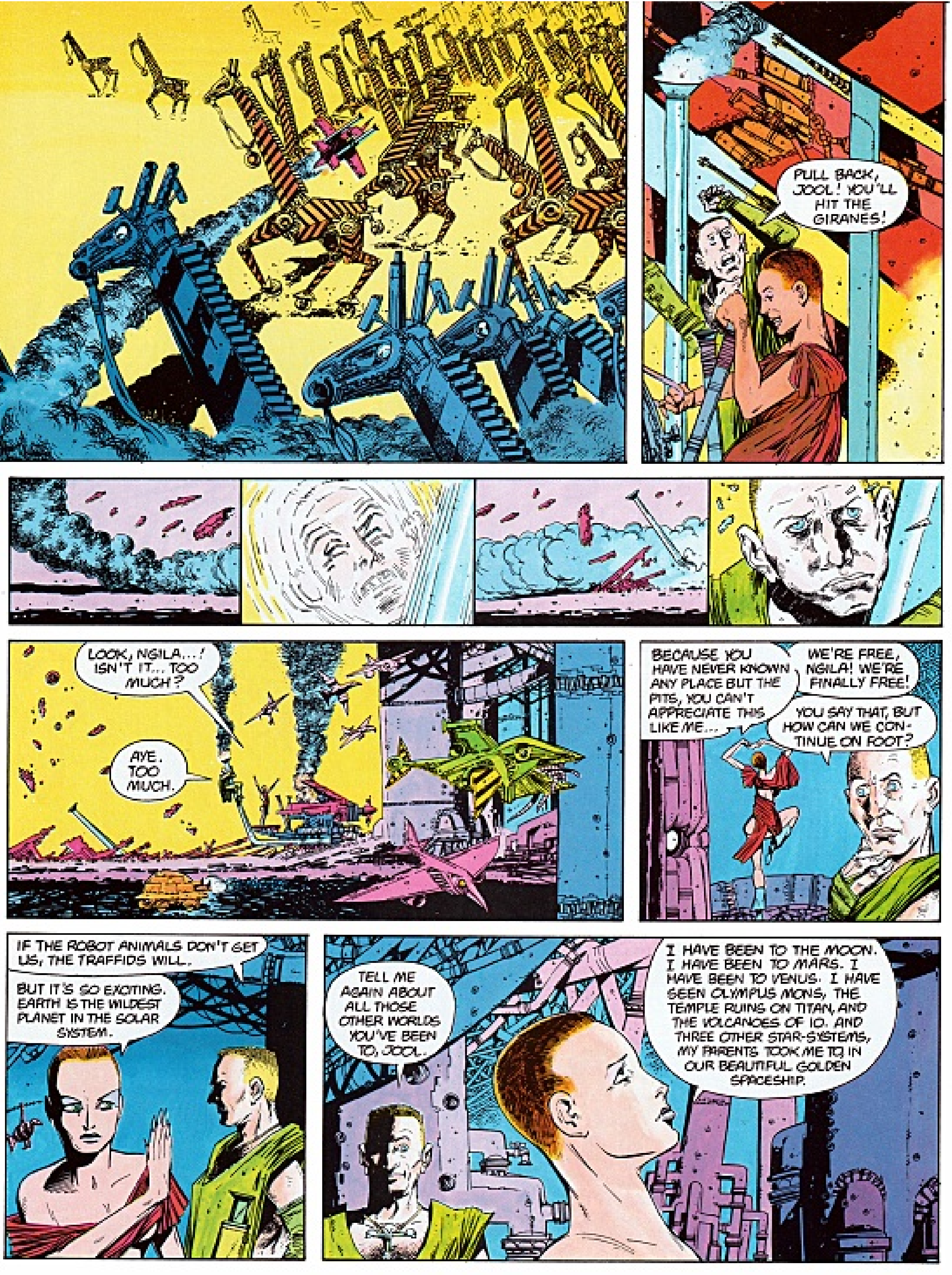

ARMAGEDDON! I'VE SCANNED TALLULAH'S MEMORY CIRCUITS...
WELL?
SHE WAS WITH YOU WHEN SHE DIED!
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU ADMIT IT? IN FRONT OF ME?
YOU KNOW I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN BUILT.
OH, NO! DON'T BLAME OUR MOTEK! YOU MUTILATED YOUR OWN BRAIN. BURNT OUT ANY SENSE OF DECENCY AND PITY--
BECAUSE THEY GET IN THE WAY OF SURVIVAL.
--AND REPLACED THEM WITH BRUTALITY AND A LUST FOR POWER.
SO I COULD MAKE THE MEKAKA THE GREATEST TRIBE ON EARTH.
MEKAKA!
WELL, YOU'VE FAILED! LOOK AT YOUR PEOPLE-- STARVED OF POWER! DESPERATE FOR SPARES! SLAUGHTERED IN POINTLESS TRIBAL WARS!
YOU FORGET ONE OTHER ELEMENT OF MY CHARACTER, VENGOID...
...A TOWERING RAGE WHEN OTHER ROBOTS CROSS ME!
WHEN THE WHEELDEBEASTS RETURN, THERE WILL BE PLENTY FOR ALL--AND THE MEKAKA WILL RULE THIS PLANET!
WHEN? IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE THE HERD PASSED THIS WAY!
MEKAKA!
OUR WAITING IS NEARLY OVER. THE SHAMEK HAS SEEN THE GOD-BEAST IN A DREAM...
THEN WHERE IS HE?

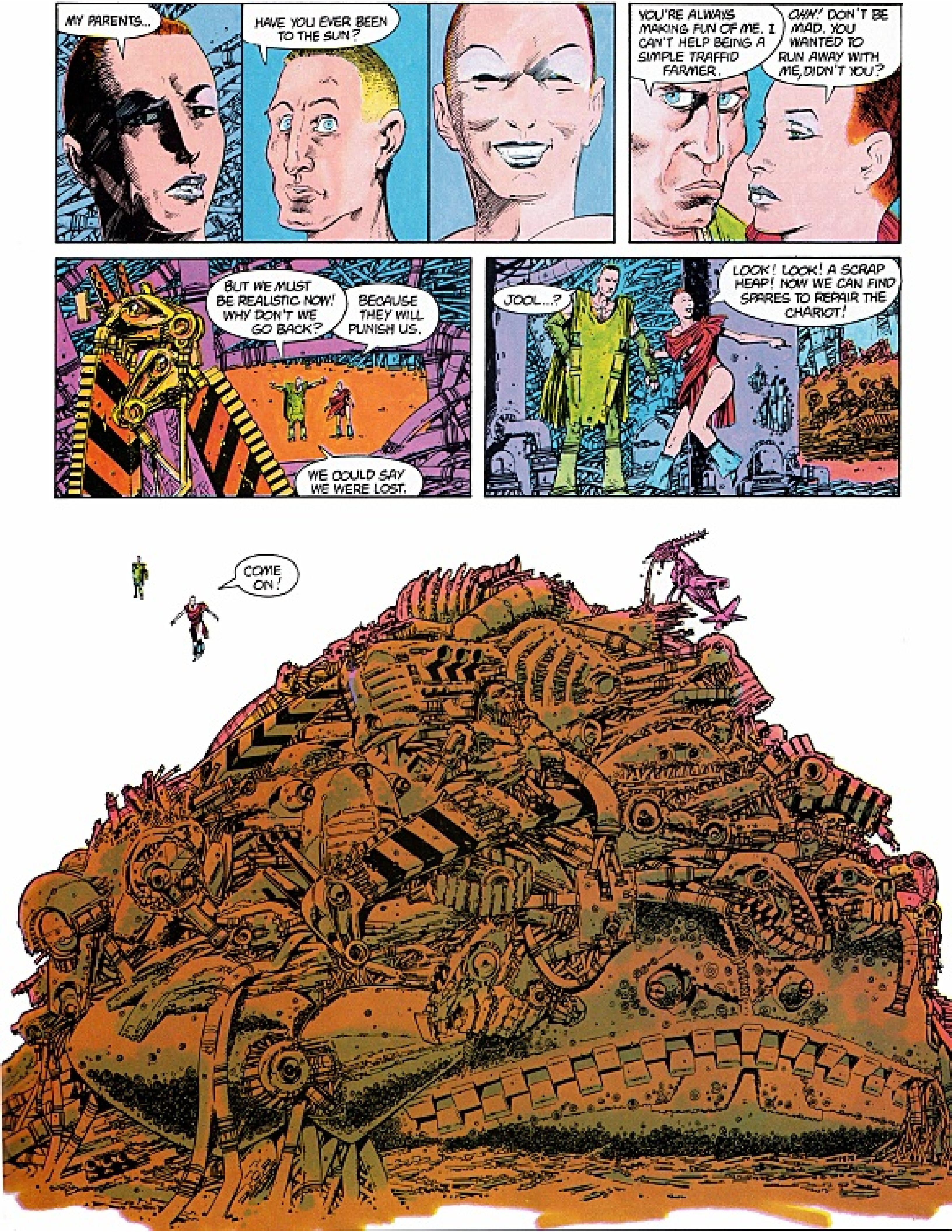


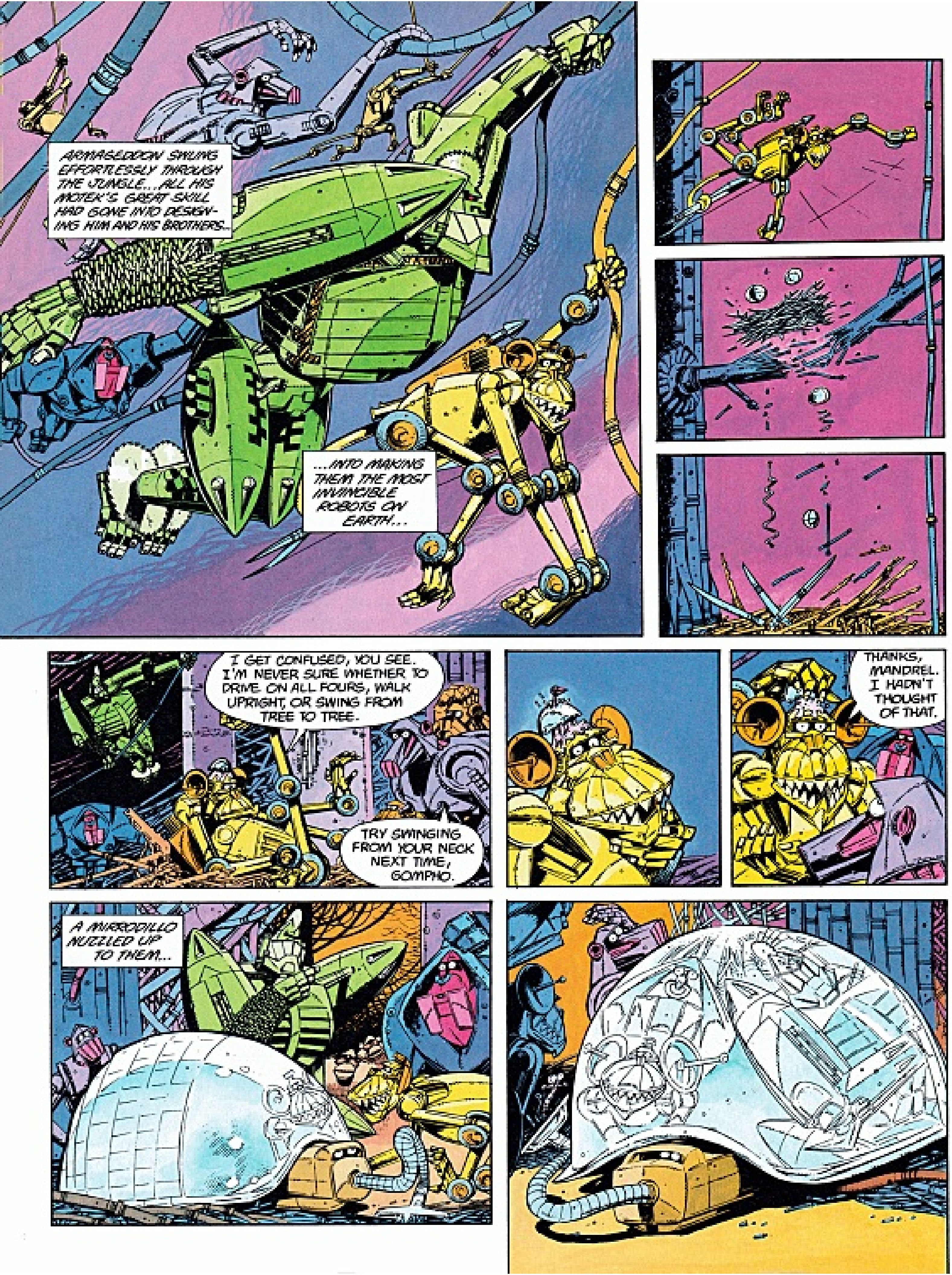


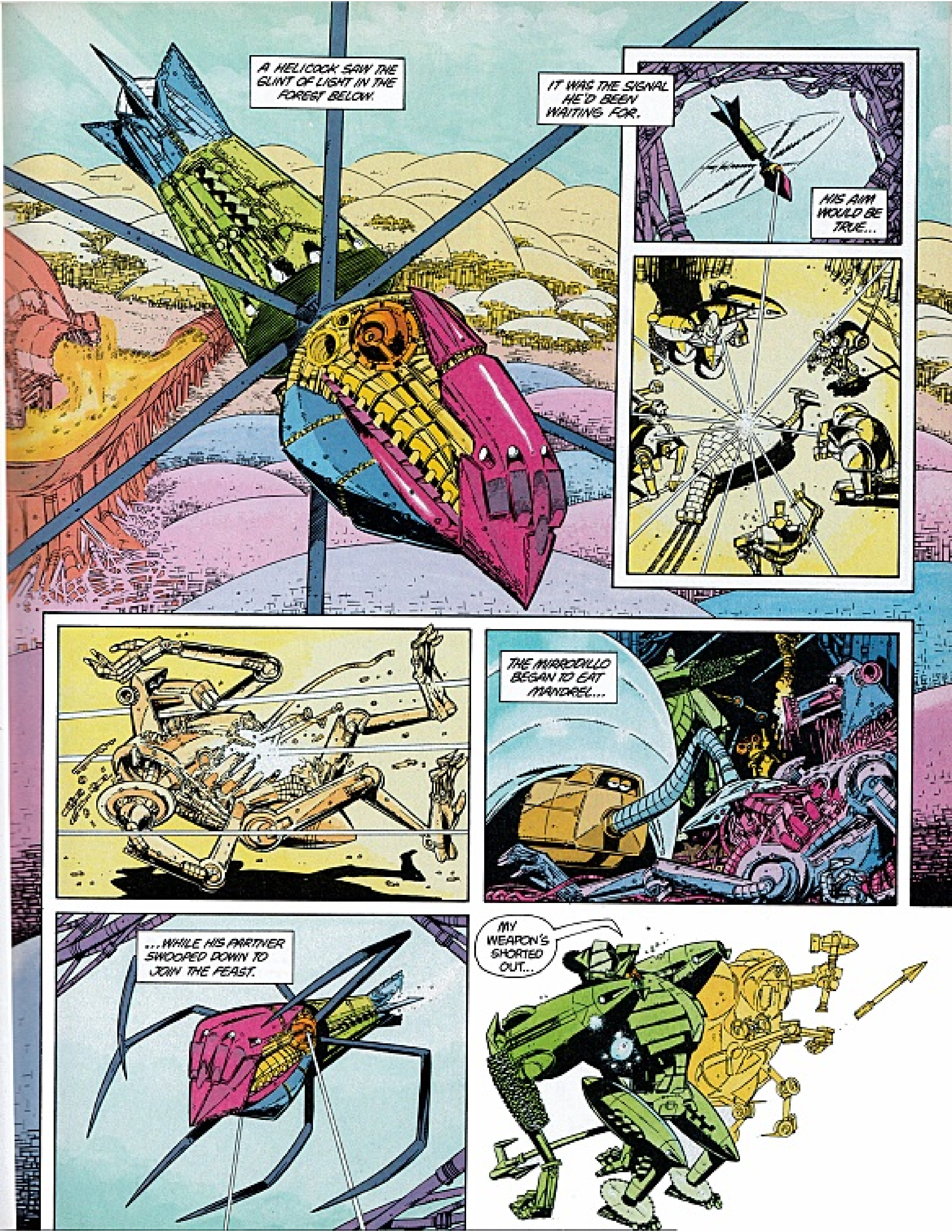

I TELL YOU, ARMAGEDDON-- MY DREAM WAS A TRUE ONE. I SAW THE GOD-BEAST BY A GREAT WATER HOLE. HE WAS ROLLING IN THE MUD AND I WANTED TO ROLL BESIDE HIM.
PITY HE DIDN'T ROLL ON TOP OF YOU. WHEN DOES HE GET HERE?
DO YOU LIKE MY NEW MASK?
IT'S SO UGLY THAT IT SUITS YOU. *WHEN?*
I WHISPERED THAT VERY QUESTION INTO HIS GREAT EAR AND HE ANSWERED..."*JUGARJUK* ... HE KNOWS ME, YOU SEE, WE SPEAK OFTEN--"*JUGARJUK, YOU MUST TELL ARMAGEDDON TO BE PATIENT. I WILL BE THERE SOON AND I WILL BRING HIM MANY FAT COWS AND FINE YOUNG BULLS WITH HEALTH.*"
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR RAMBLINGS. I'M GOING TO FIND HIM.
YES, YES, PERHAPS THAT WOULD BE WISE. MEANWHILE, I WILL CONTINUE CALLING HIM. BE ASSURED I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I FEEL THE GLOW OF HIS FURNACE ON MY FACE AND SMELL HIS EXHAUST UP MY TRUNK.
LET'S HOPE HE HEARS --OR I'LL BE BACK... TO KILL YOU... IN THE MOST PAINFUL WAY.
WELL...? WAS THE SHAMEK CRAWLING ON HIS KNEES? DID HE KISS YOUR FEET? WOULD THAT SUIT YOU?
THAT OLD FOOL! WHATEVER POWERS HE HAD HAVE FADED.
HE PREFERS SPELLS AND DREAMS TO HARD WORK!
YOU'RE LIKE SLAYVAR WITH CLAWS UNSHEATHED, WAITING TO POUNCE.
BE TACTFUL. SHAMEK COULD KILL YOU WITH A THOUGHT.
I DON'T FEAR HIS MAGIC.
THEN YOU SHOULD. PERHAPS IT WAS *MAGIC* THAT MADE SLAYVAR KILL TALLULAH...
HOW?
OH, SUPPOSING SOMEONE BOOSTED HER SCENT-SIGNAL, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SLAYVAR TO RESIST...
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY WE ENTERED THE CAMP! YOU MEAN *YOU THINK*--?
I MEAN YOU ARE ONLY A WARRIOR. YOU WOULD DO WELL TO RESPECT THE MAGIC OF THE SHAMEK AND THE MOTEKS...
TAKE CARE, ARMAGEDDON...

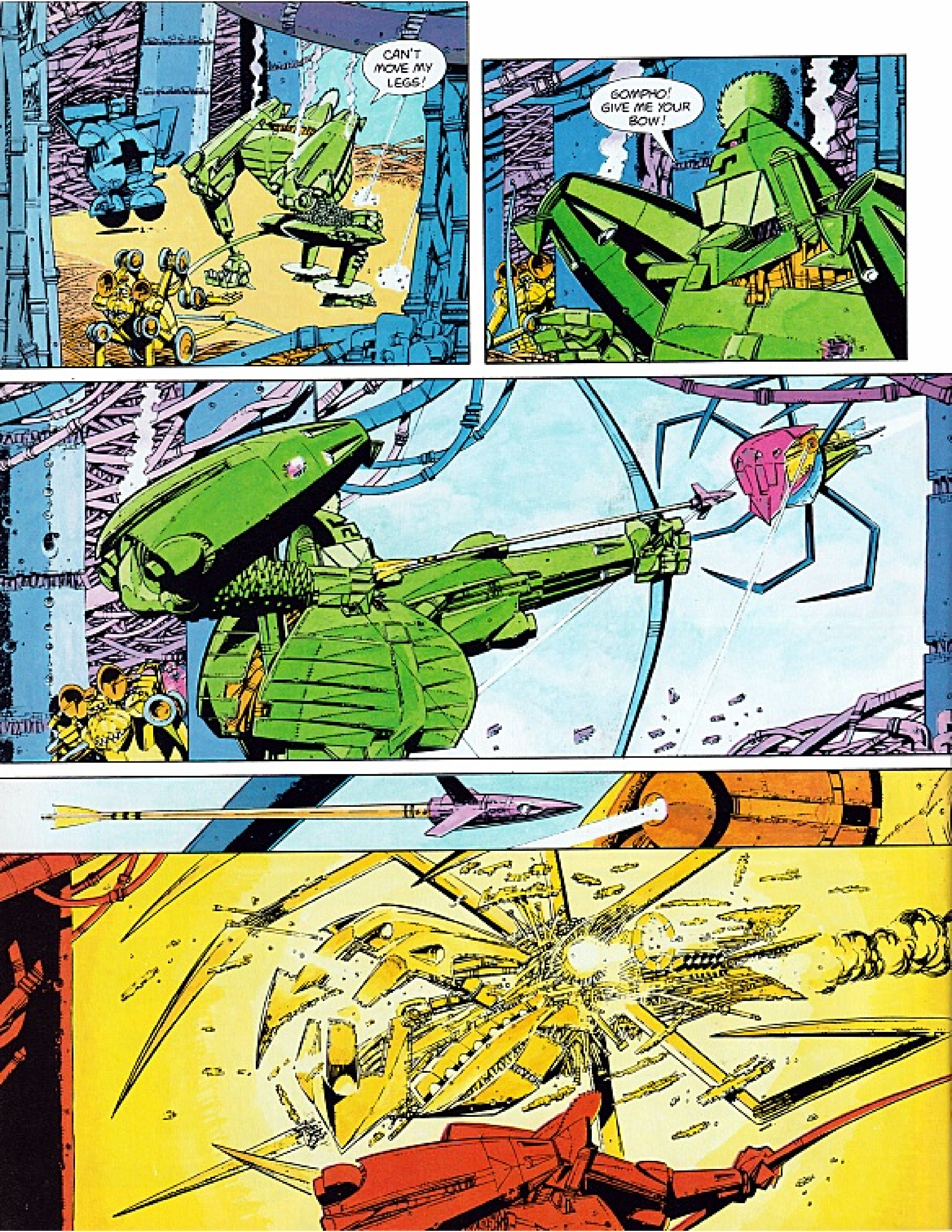


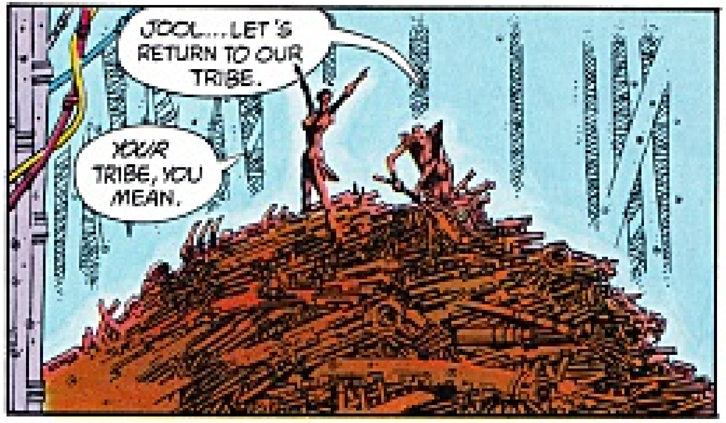

PULL BACK, JOOL! YOU'LL HIT THE GIRANES!
LOOK, NGILA...! ISN'T IT... TOO MUCH?
AYE. TOO MUCH.
WE'RE FREE, NGILA! WE'RE FINALLY FREE!
BECAUSE YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN ANY PLACE BUT THE PITS, YOU CAN'T APPRECIATE THIS LIKE ME...
YOU SAY THAT, BUT HOW CAN WE CONTINUE ON FOOT?
IF THE ROBOT ANIMALS DON'T GET US, THE TRAFFIDS WILL.
BUT IT'S SO EXCITING. EARTH IS THE WILDEST PLANET IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT ALL THOSE OTHER WORLDS YOU'VE BEEN TO, JOOL.
I HAVE BEEN TO THE MOON. I HAVE BEEN TO MARS. I HAVE BEEN TO VENUS. I HAVE SEEN OLYMPUS MONS, THE TEMPLE RUINS ON TITAN, AND THE VOLCANOES OF IO. AND THREE OTHER STAR-SYSTEMS, MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO, IN OUR BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN SPACESHIP.

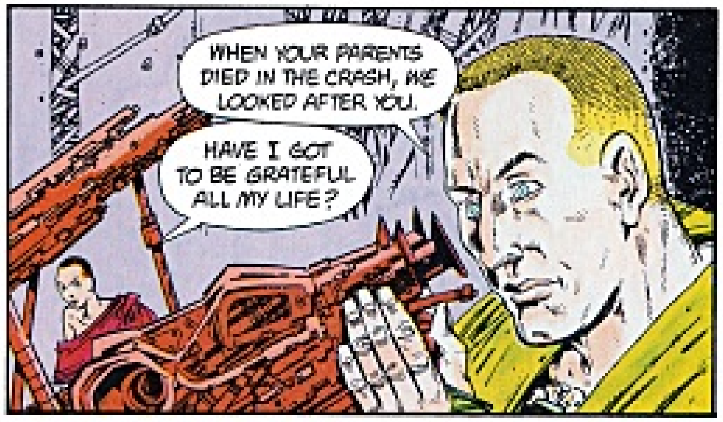

MY PARENTS...
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO THE SUN?
YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING FUN OF ME. I CAN'T HELP BEING A SIMPLE TRAFFID FARMER.
OHH! DON'T BE MAD. YOU WANTED TO RUN AWAY WITH ME, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT WE MUST BE REALISTIC NOW! WHY DON'T WE GO BACK?
BECAUSE THEY WILL PUNISH US.
WE COULD SAY WE WERE LOST.
JOOL...?
LOOK! LOOK! A SCRAP HEAP! NOW WE CAN FIND SPARES TO REPAIR THE CHARIOT!
COME ON!

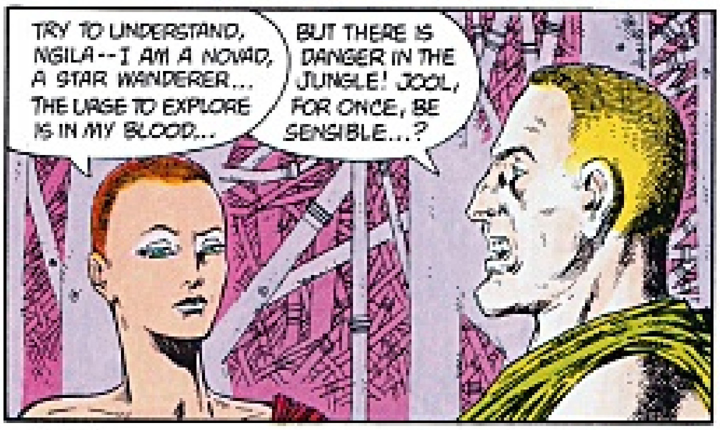

ARMAGEDDON SWUNG EFFORTLESSLY THROUGH THE JUNGLE... ALL HIS MOTEK'S GREAT SKILL HAD GONE INTO DESIGNING HIM AND HIS BROTHERS...
...INTO MAKING THEM THE MOST INVINCIBLE ROBOTS ON EARTH...
I GET CONFUSED, YOU SEE. I'M NEVER SURE WHETHER TO DRIVE ON ALL FOURS, WALK UPRIGHT, OR SWING FROM TREE TO TREE.
TRY SWINGING FROM YOUR NECK NEXT TIME, GOMPHO.
THANKS, MANDREL. I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.
A MIRRODILLO NUZZLED UP TO THEM...

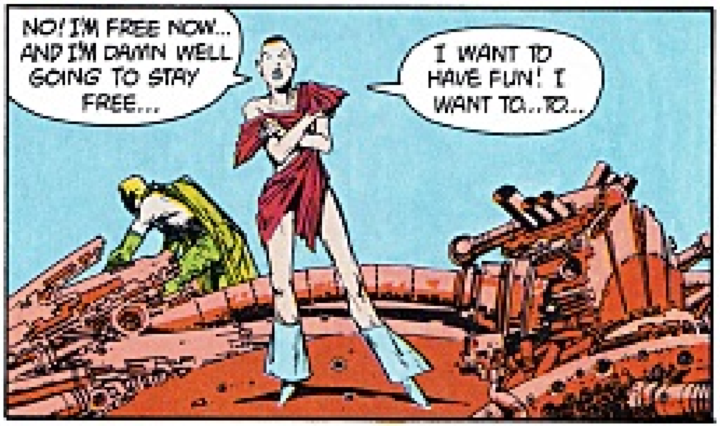

A HELICOOK SAW THE GLINT OF LIGHT IN THE FOREST BELOW.
IT WAS THE SIGNAL HE'D BEEN WAITING FOR.
HIS AIM WOULD BE TRUE...
THE MIRRODILLO BEGAN TO EAT MANDREL...
...WHILE HIS PARTNER SWOOPED DOWN TO JOIN THE FEAST.
MY WEAPON'S SHORTED OUT...

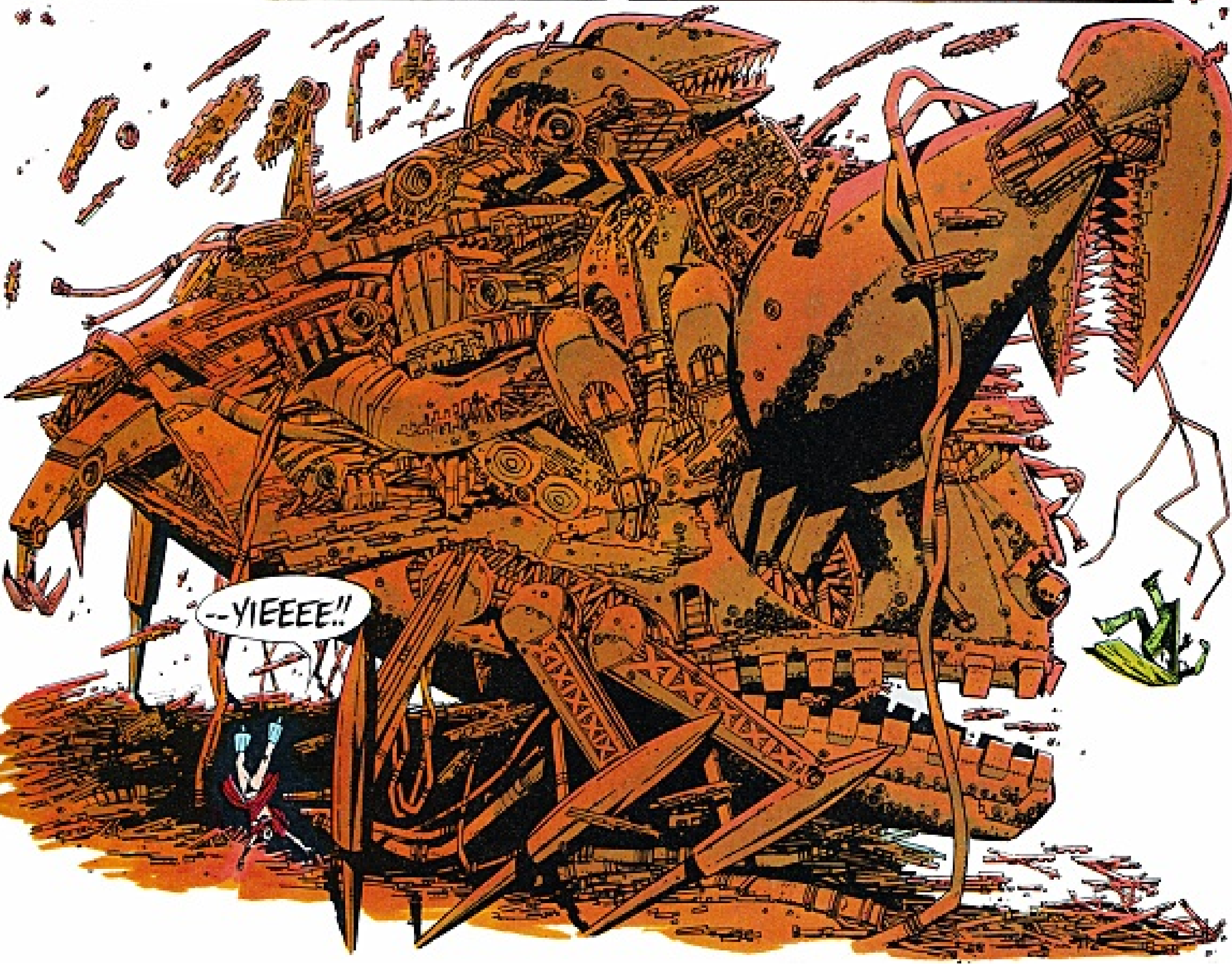

CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS!
GOMPHO! GIVE ME YOUR BOW!

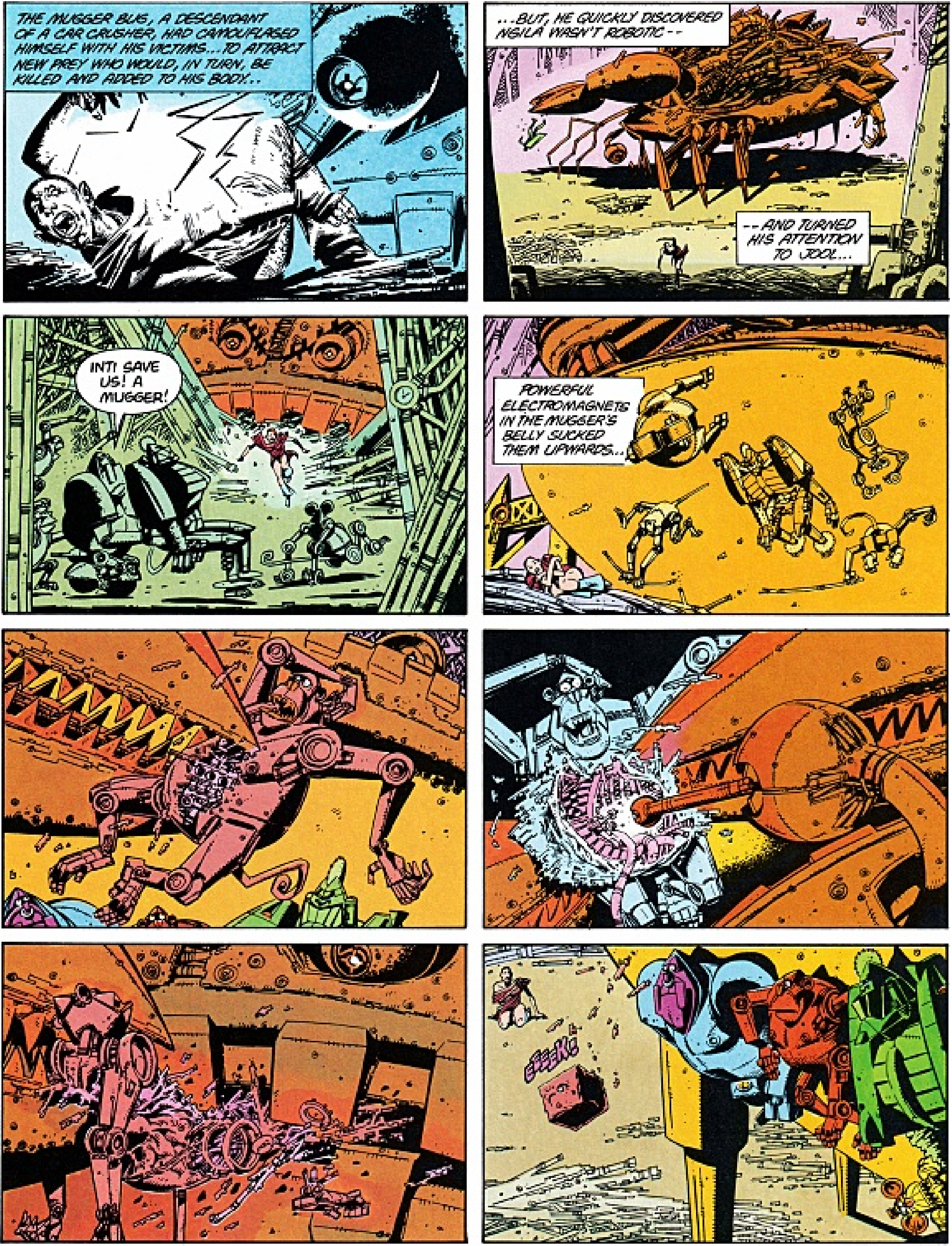

JOOL...LET'S RETURN TO OUR TRIBE.
YOUR TRIBE, YOU MEAN.

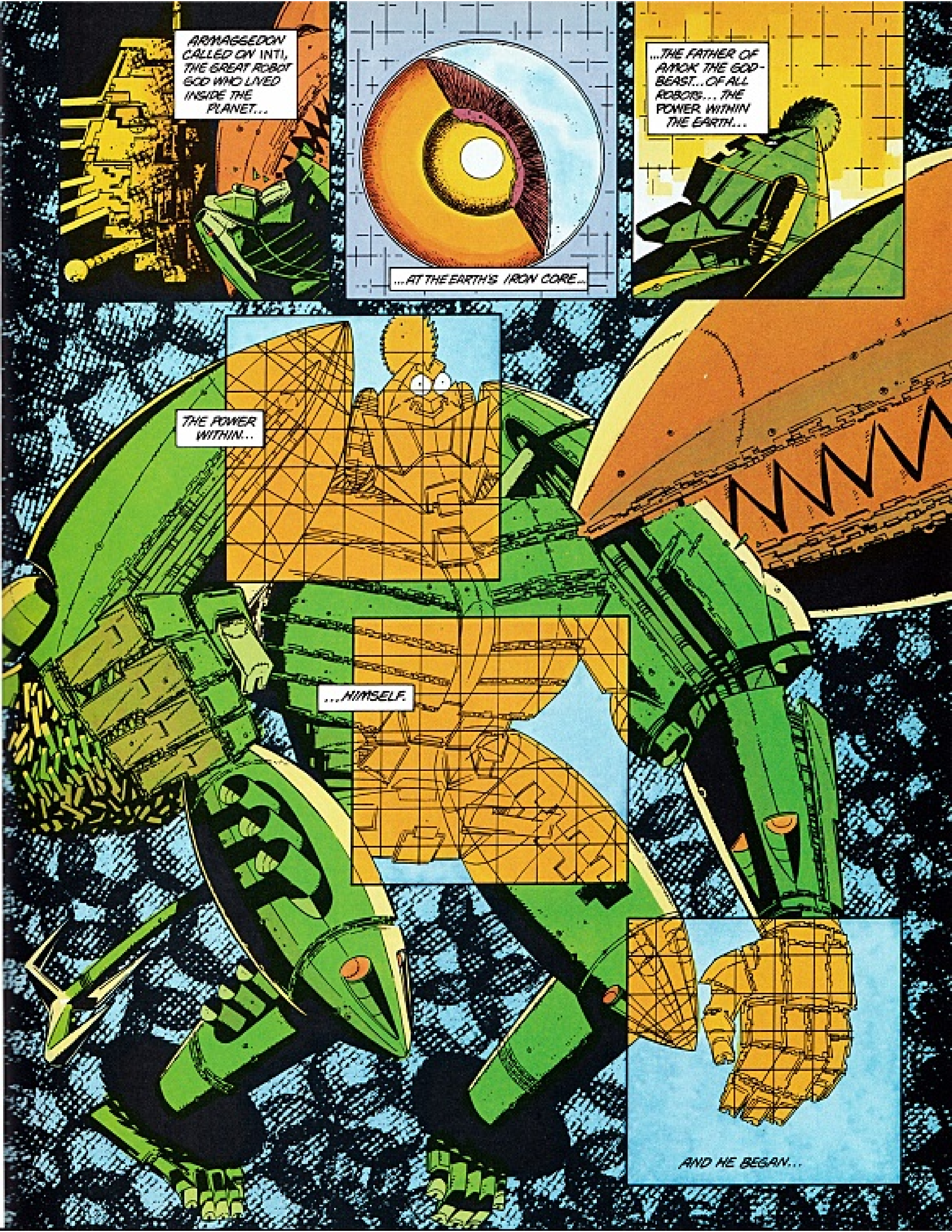

WHEN YOUR PARENTS DIED IN THE CRASH, WE LOOKED AFTER YOU.
HAVE I GOT TO BE GRATEFUL ALL MY LIFE?

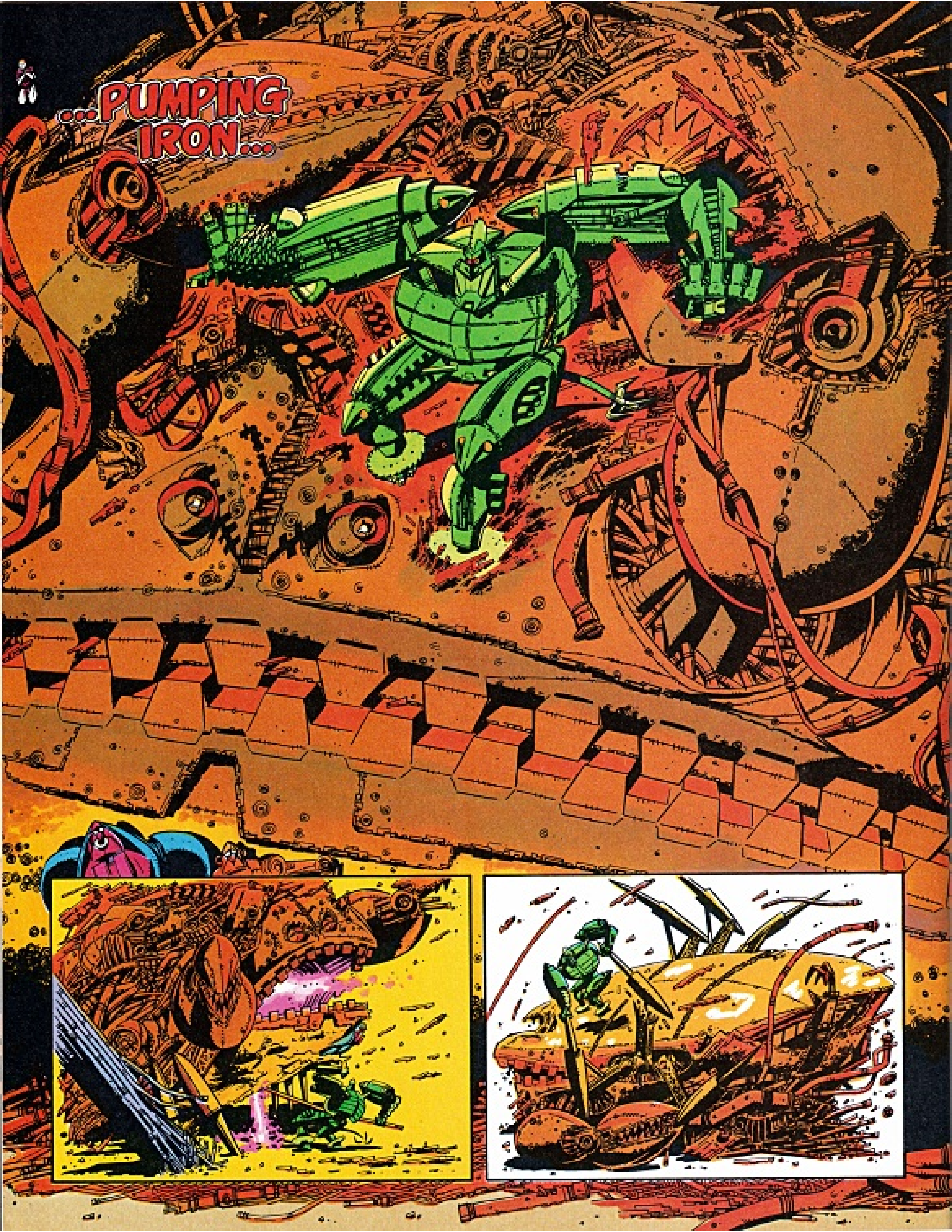

TRY TO UNDERSTAND, NGILA--I AM A NOVAD, A STAR WANDERER... THE URGE TO EXPLORE IS IN MY BLOOD...
BUT THERE IS DANGER IN THE JUNGLE! JOOL, FOR ONCE, BE SENSIBLE...?

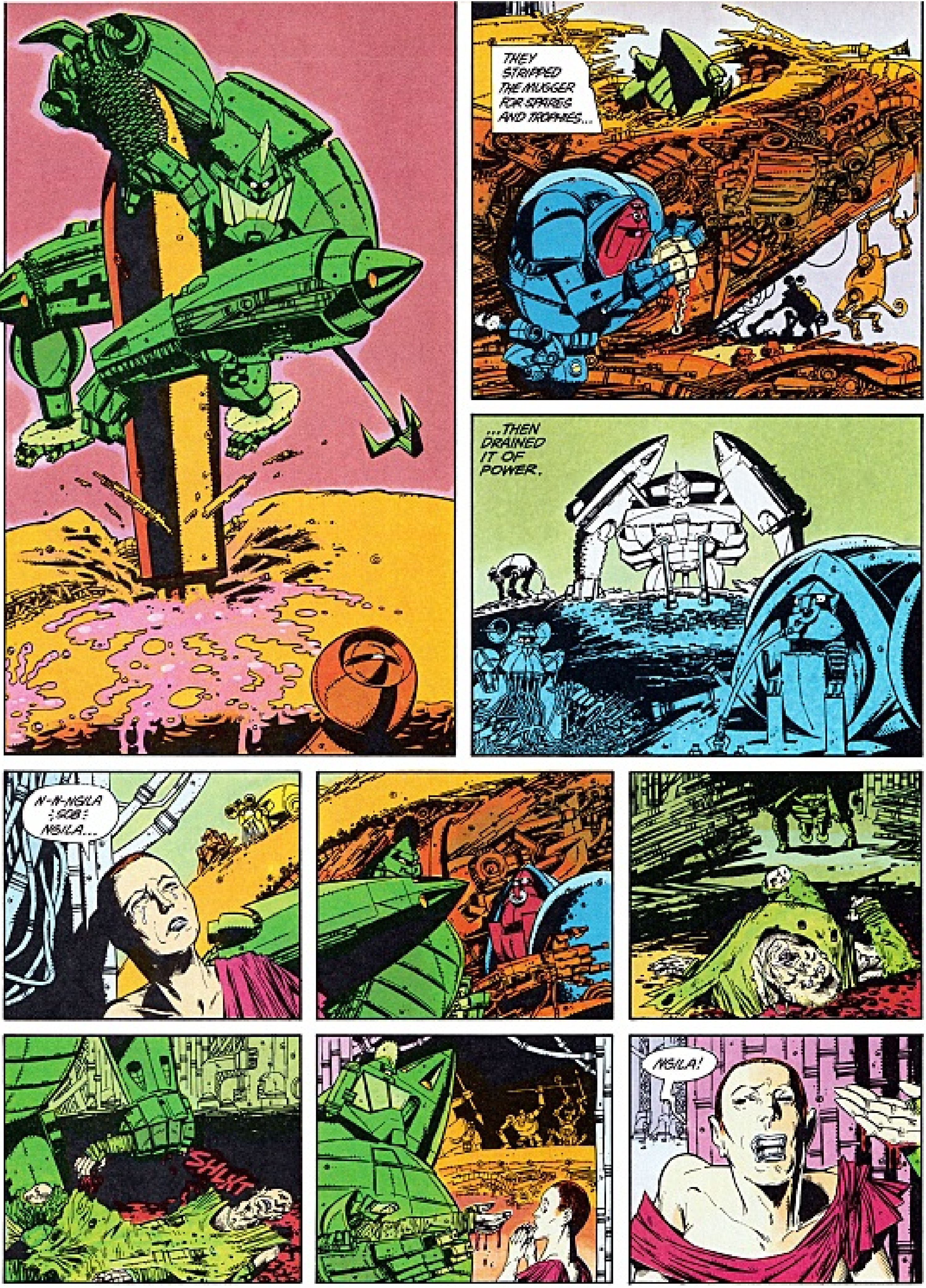

NO! I'M FREE NOW... AND I'M DAMN WELL GOING TO STAY FREE...
I WANT TO HAVE FUN! I WANT TO...TO...

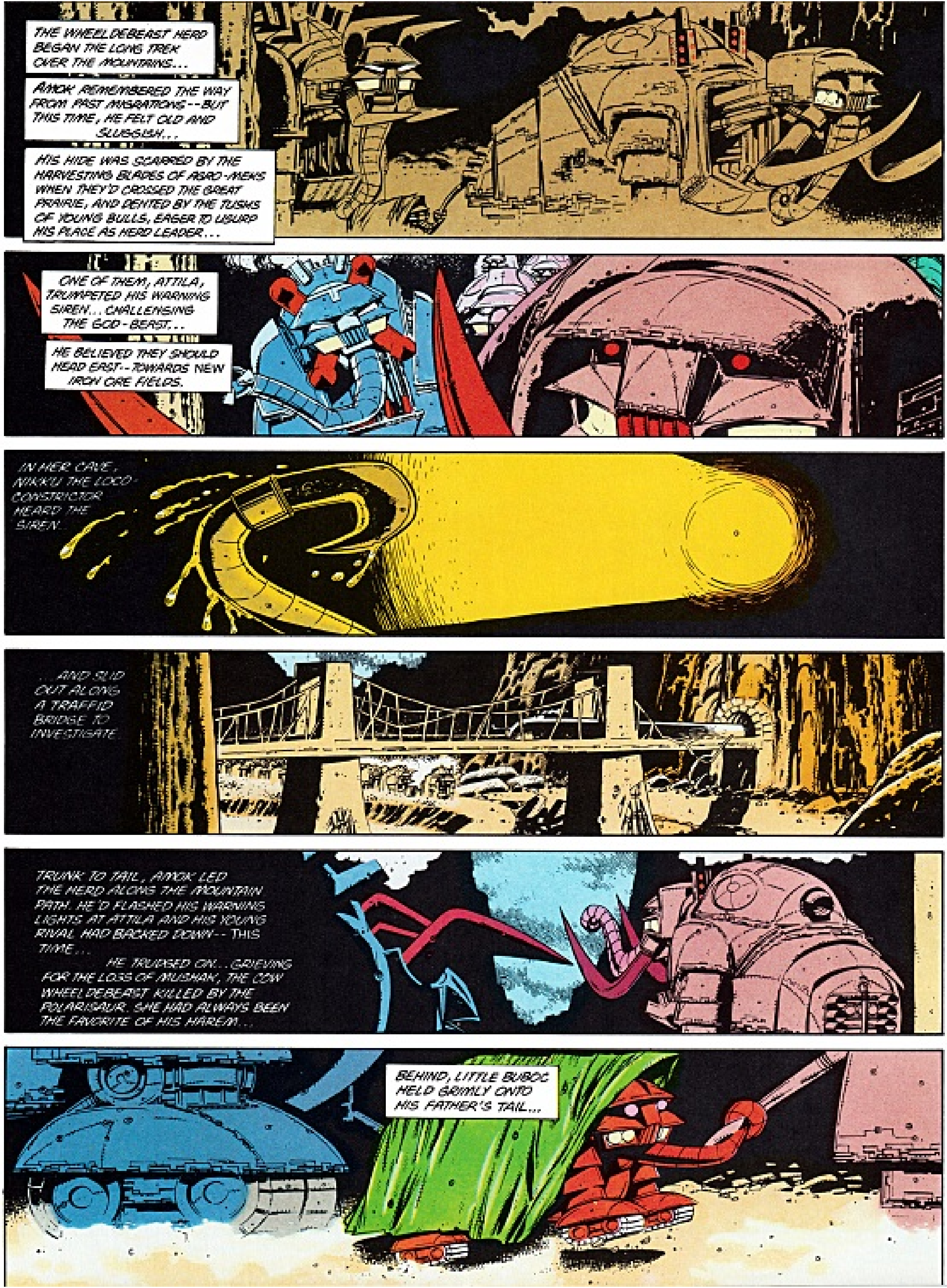

--YIEEEE!!

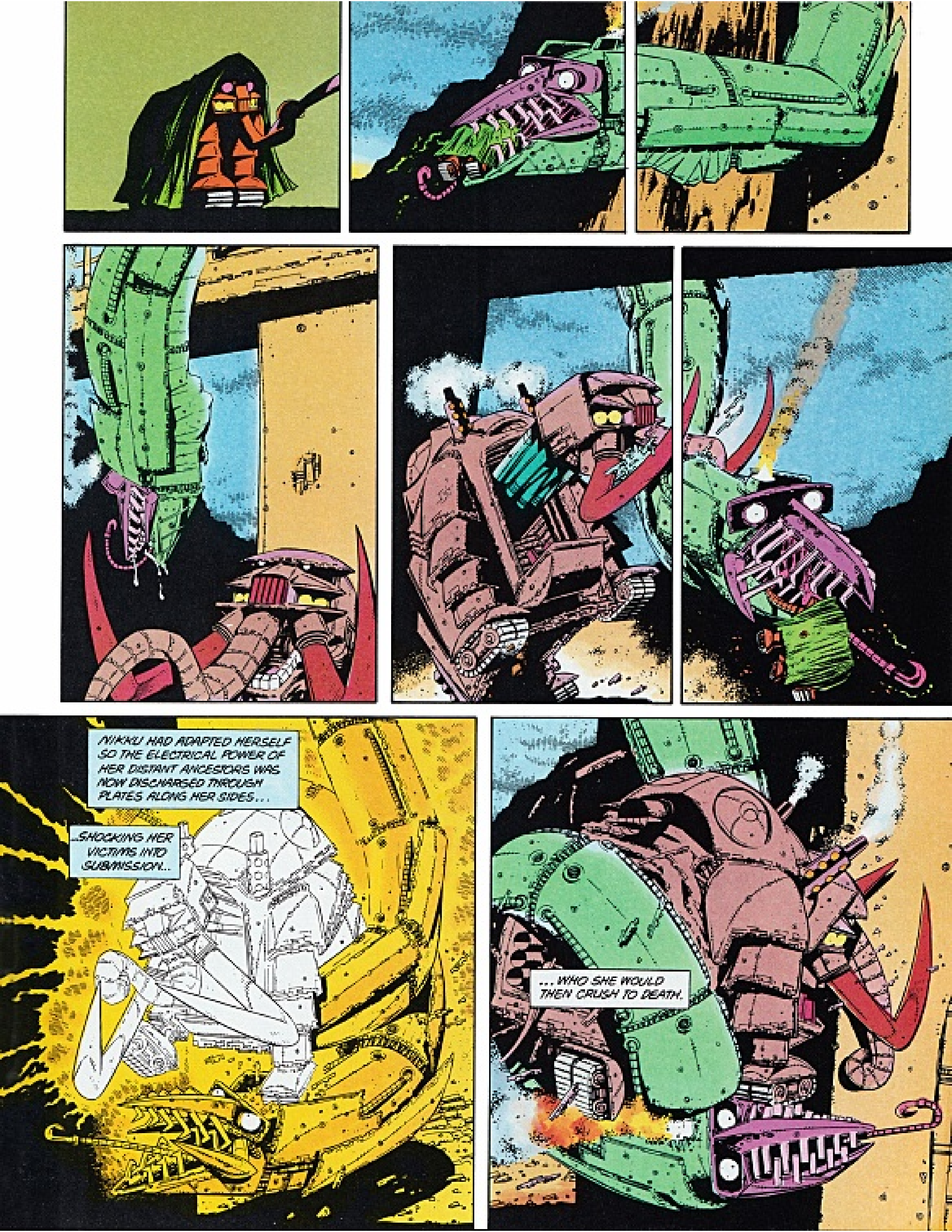

THE MUGGER BUG, A DESCENDANT OF A CAR CRUSHER, HAD CAMOUFLAGED HIMSELF WITH HIS VICTIMS...TO ATTRACT NEW PREY WHO WOULD, IN TURN, BE KILLED AND ADDED TO HIS BODY...
...BUT, HE QUICKLY DISCOVERED NGILA WASN'T ROBOTIC--
--AND TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO JOOL...
INTI SAVE US! A MUGGER!
POWERFUL ELECTROMAGNETS IN THE MUGGER'S BELLY SUCKED THEM UPWARDS...
SSSHK!

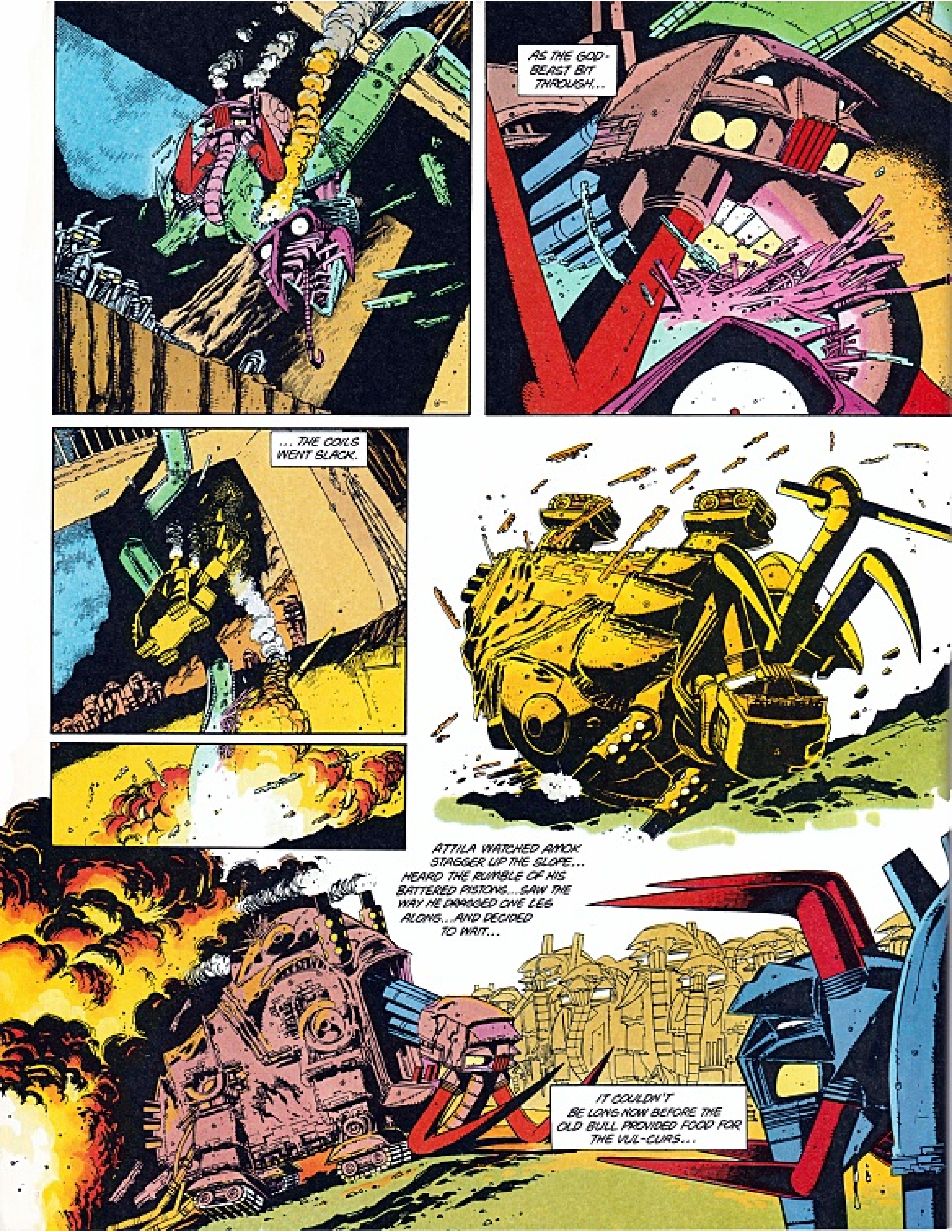

ARMAGGEDON CALLED ON INTI, THE GREAT ROBOT GOD WHO LIVED INSIDE THE PLANET...
...AT THE EARTH'S IRON CORE...
...THE FATHER OF AMOK THE GOD-BEAST...OF ALL ROBOTS... THE POWER WITHIN THE EARTH...
THE POWER WITHIN...
...HIMSELF.
AND HE BEGAN...

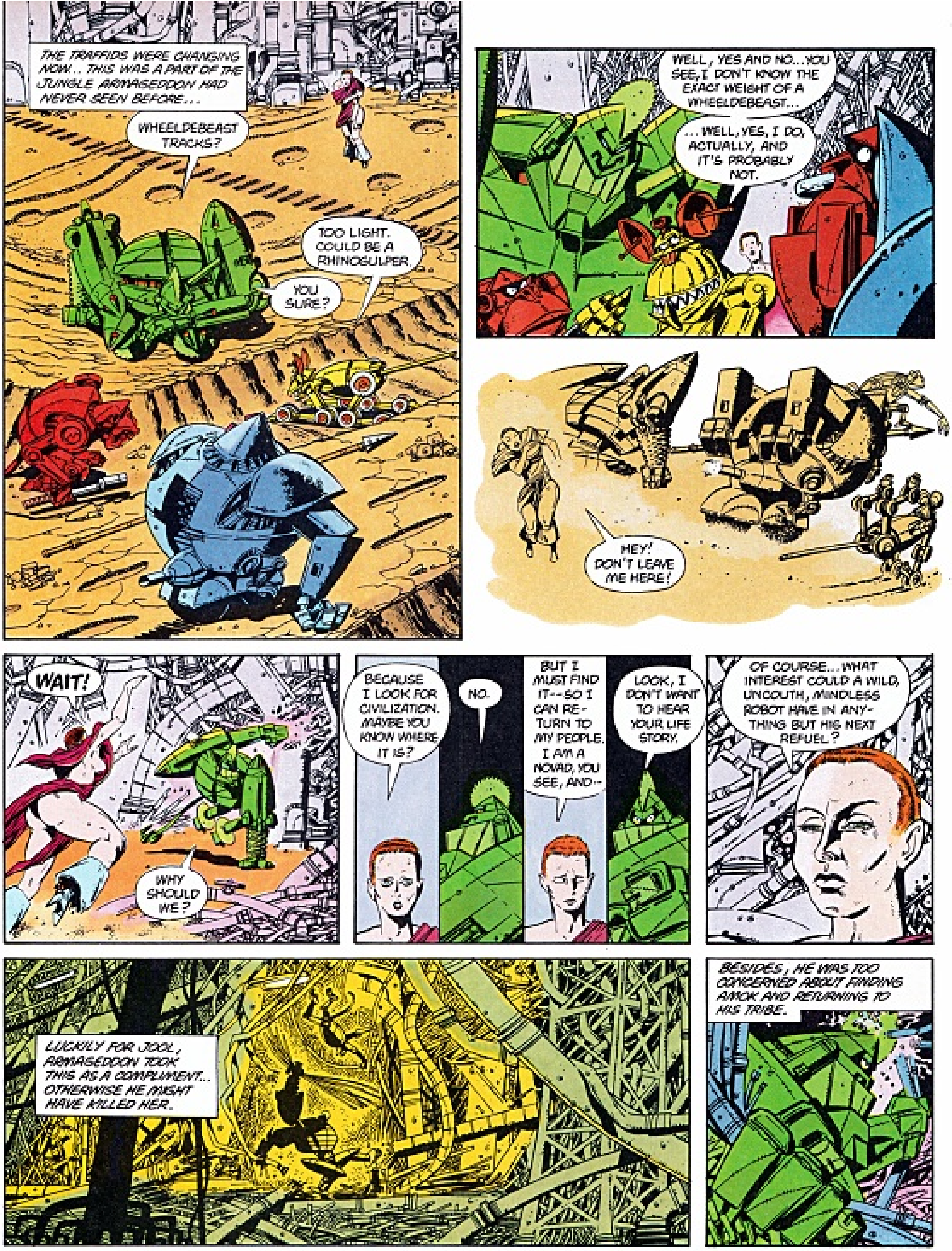

...PUMPING IRON...

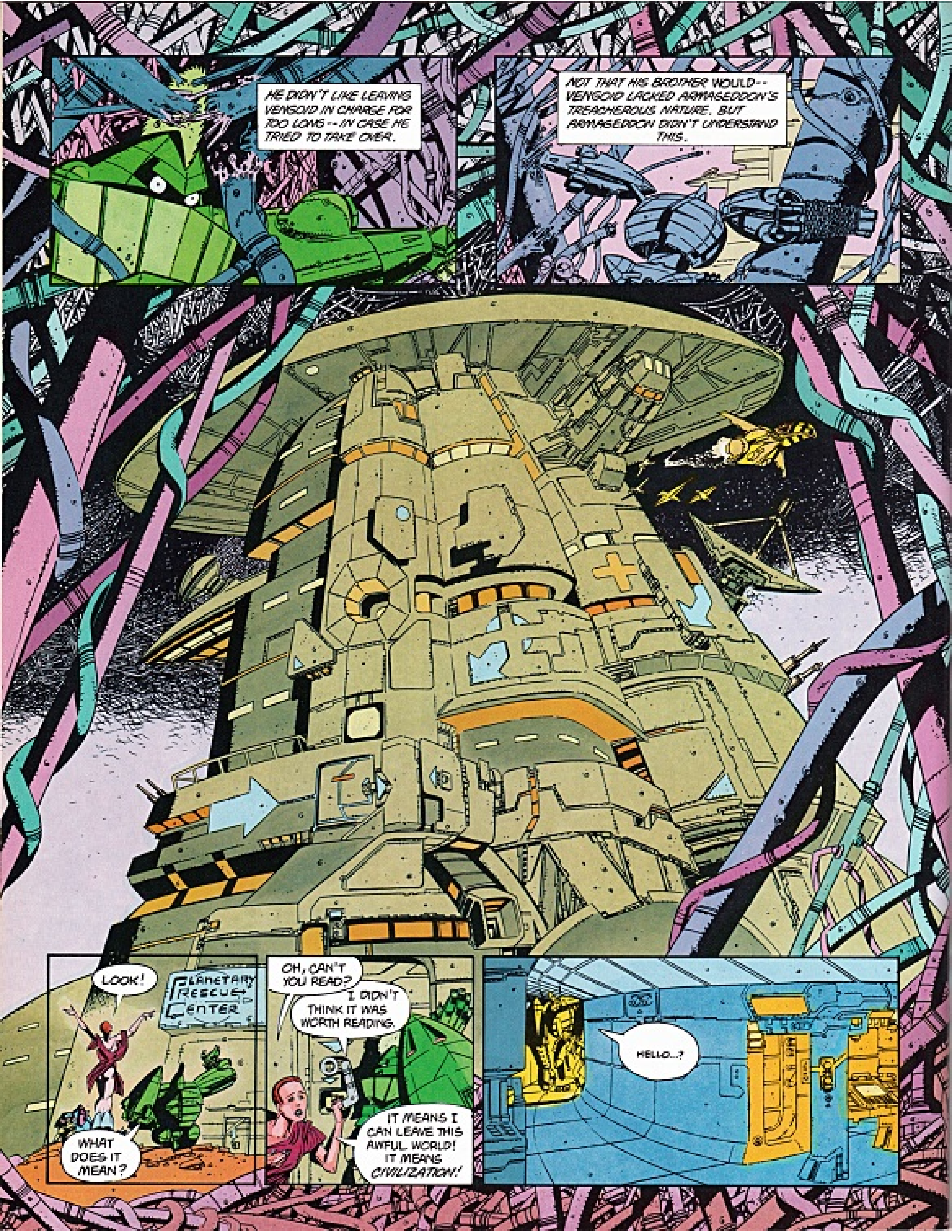

THEY STRIPPED THE MUGGER FOR SPARES AND TROPHIES...
...THEN DRAINED IT OF POWER.
N-N-NGILA :SOB: NGILA...
SHLKT
NGILA!

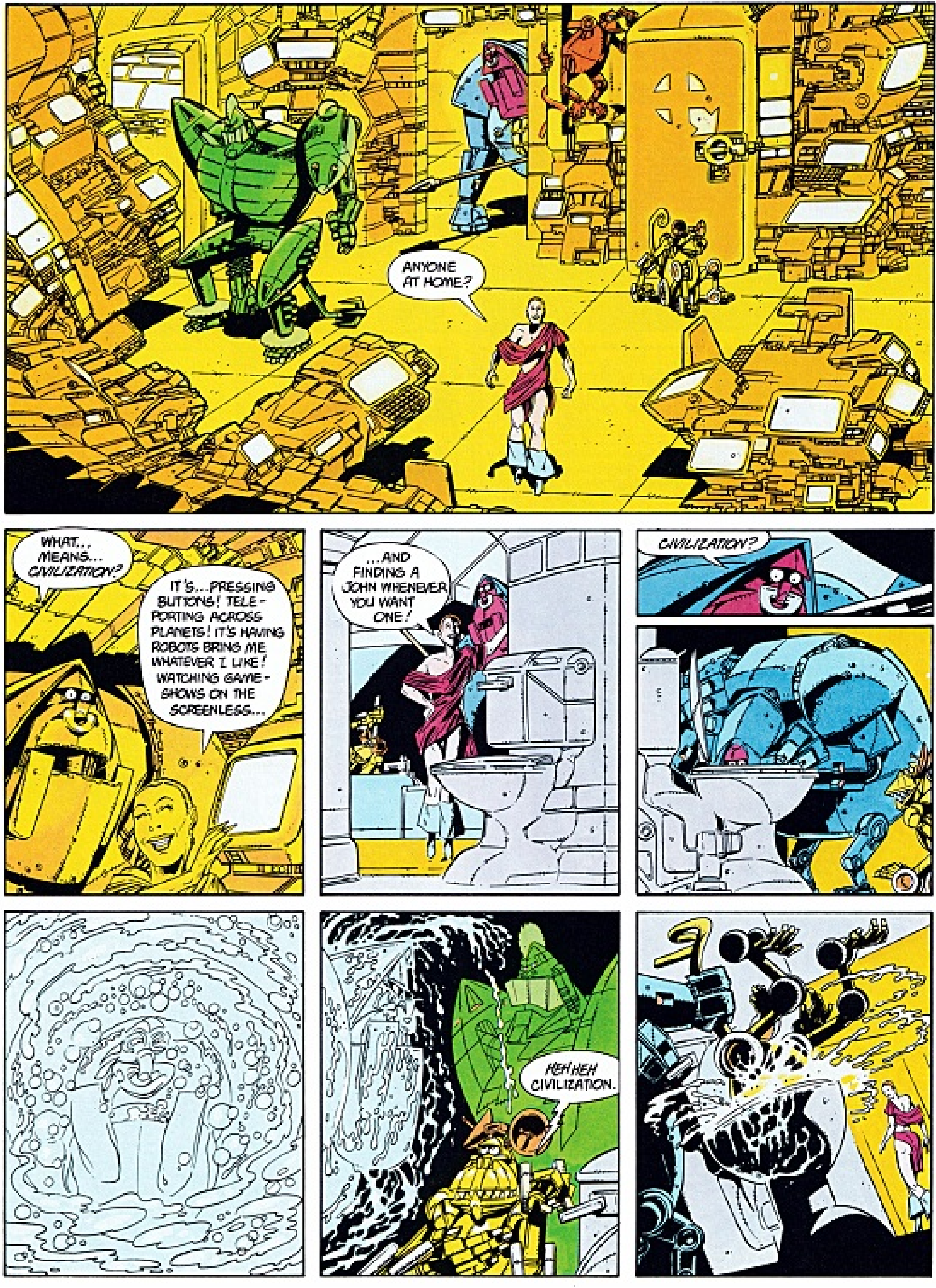

THE WHEELDEBEAST HERD BEGAN THE LONG TREK OVER THE MOUNTAINS...
AMOK REMEMBERED THE WAY FROM PAST MIGRATIONS--BUT THIS TIME, HE FELT OLD AND SLUGGISH...
HIS HIDE WAS SCARRED BY THE HARVESTING BLADES OF AGRO-MEKS WHEN THEY'D CROSSED THE GREAT PRAIRIE, AND DENTED BY THE TUSKS OF YOUNG BULLS, EAGER TO USURP HIS PLACE AS HERD LEADER...
ONE OF THEM, ATTILA, TRUMPETED HIS WARNING SIREN...CHALLENGING THE GOD-BEAST...
HE BELIEVED THEY SHOULD HEAD EAST--TOWARDS NEW IRON ORE FIELDS.
IN HER CAVE, NIKKU THE LOCO-CONSTRICTOR HEARD THE SIREN...
...AND SLID OUT ALONG A TRAFFID BRIDGE TO INVESTIGATE.
TRUNK TO TAIL, AMOK LED THE HERD ALONG THE MOUNTAIN PATH. HE'D FLASHED HIS WARNING LIGHTS AT ATTILA AND HIS YOUNG RIVAL HAD BACKED DOWN-- THIS TIME...
HE TRUDGED ON...GRIEVING FOR THE LOSS OF MUSHAK, THE COW WHEELDEBEAST KILLED BY THE POLARISAUR. SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE FAVORITE OF HIS HAREM...
BEHIND, LITTLE BUBOC HELD GRIMLY ONTO HIS FATHER'S TAIL...

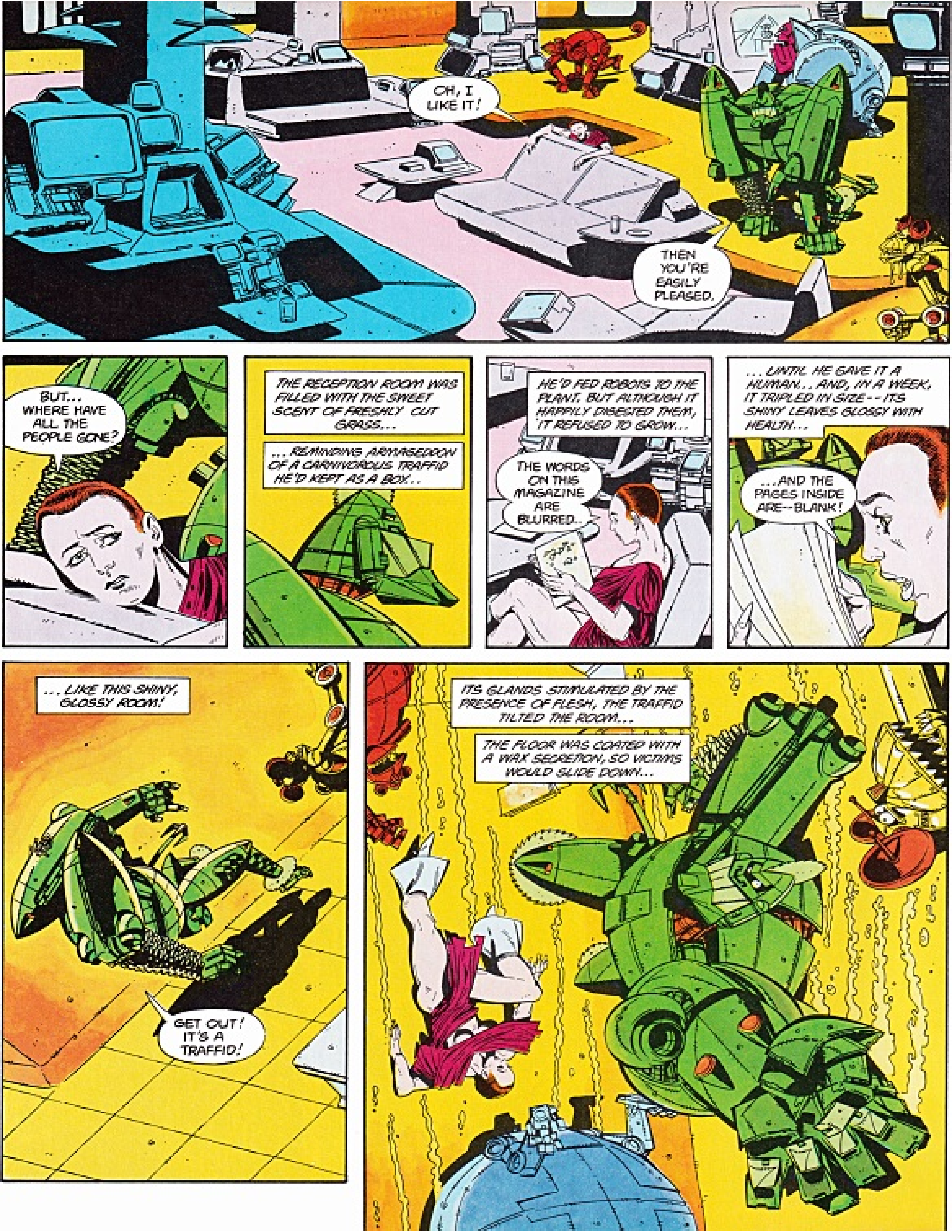

NIKKU HAD ADAPTED HERSELF SO THE ELECTRICAL POWER OF HER DISTANT ANCESTORS WAS NOW DISCHARGED THROUGH PLATES ALONG HER SIDES...
...SHOCKING HER VICTIMS INTO SUBMISSION...
...WHO SHE WOULD THEN CRUSH TO DEATH.

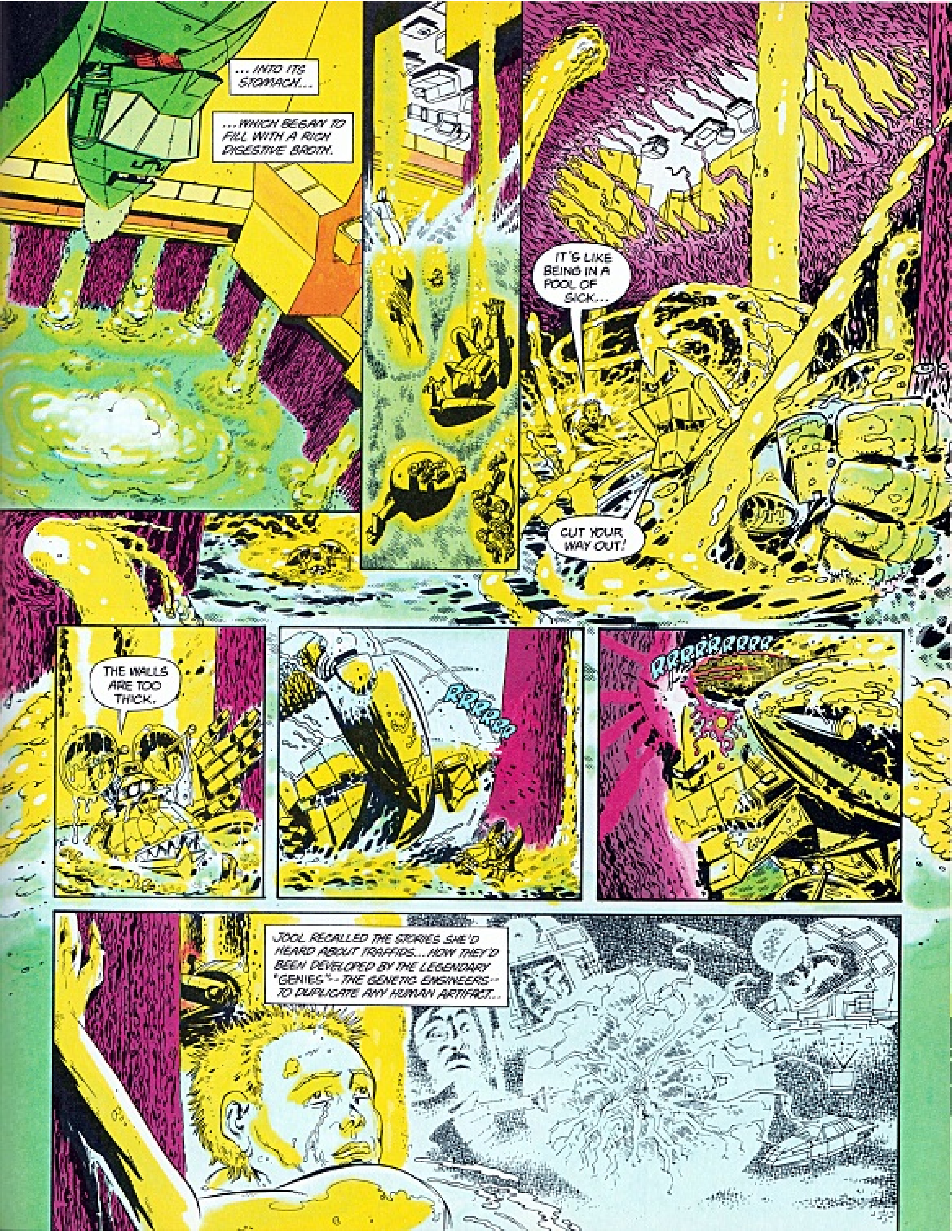

AS THE GOD-BEAST BIT THROUGH...
... THE COILS WENT SLACK.
ATTILA WATCHED AMOK STAGGER UP THE SLOPE... HEARD THE RUMBLE OF HIS BATTERED PISTONS...SAW THE WAY HE DRAGGED ONE LEG ALONG...AND DECIDED TO WAIT...
IT COULDN'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE THE OLD BULL PROVIDED FOOD FOR THE VUL-CURS...

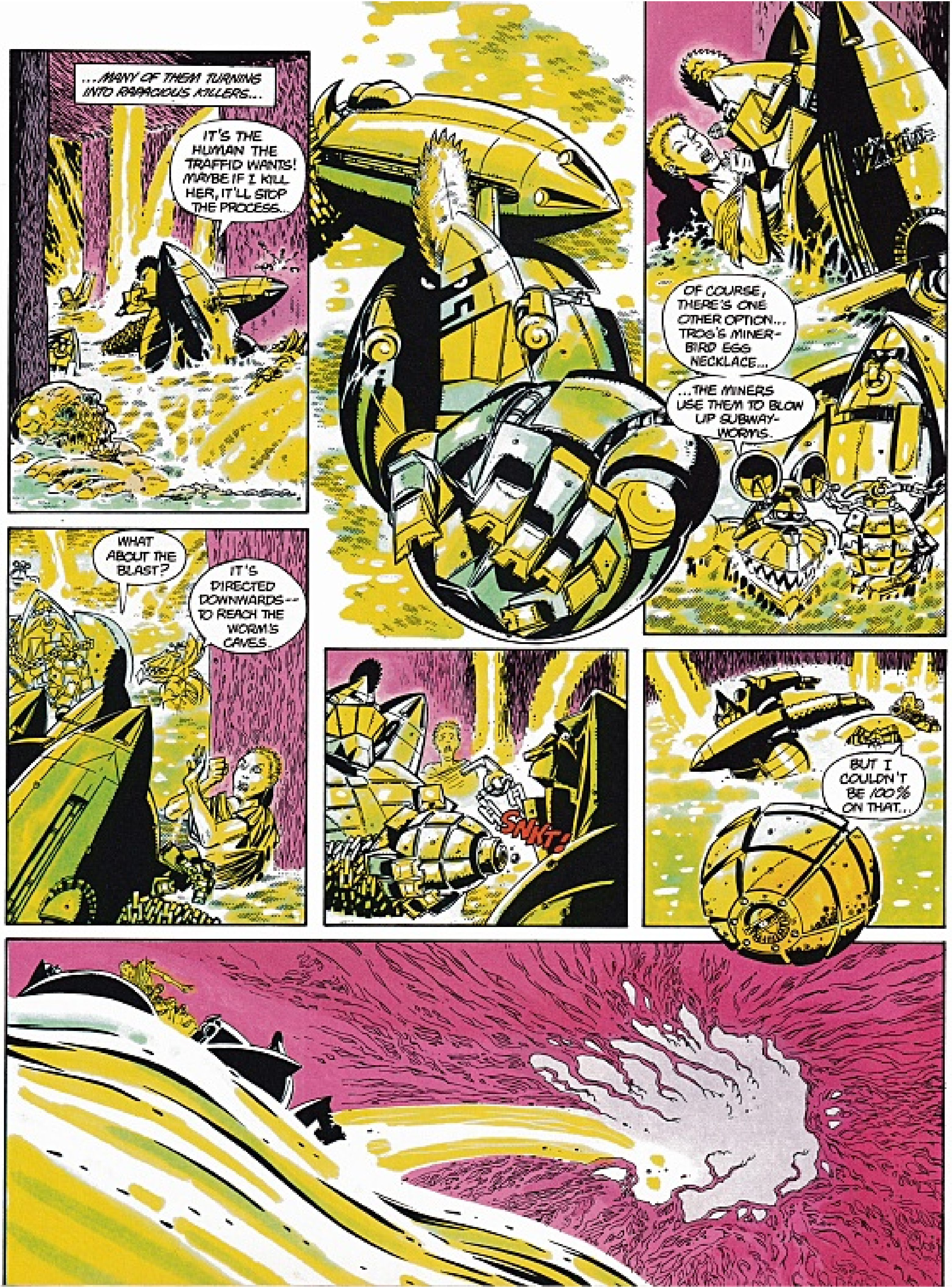

THE TRAFFIDS WERE CHANGING NOW... THIS WAS A PART OF THE JUNGLE ARMAGEDDON HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
WHEELDEBEAST TRACKS?
TOO LIGHT. COULD BE A RHINOSULPER.
YOU SURE?
WELL, YES AND NO... YOU SEE, I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT WEIGHT OF A WHEELDEBEAST...
...WELL, YES, I DO, ACTUALLY, AND IT'S PROBABLY NOT.
HEY! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!
WAIT!
WHY SHOULD WE?
BECAUSE I LOOK FOR CIVILIZATION. MAYBE YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?
NO.
BUT I MUST FIND IT--SO I CAN RETURN TO MY PEOPLE. I AM A NOVAD, YOU SEE, AND--
LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR LIFE STORY.
OF COURSE... WHAT INTEREST COULD A WILD, UNCOUTH, MINDLESS ROBOT HAVE IN ANYTHING BUT HIS NEXT REFUEL?
LUCKILY FOR JOOL, ARMAGEDDON TOOK THIS AS A COMPLIMENT... OTHERWISE HE MIGHT HAVE KILLED HER.
BESIDES, HE WAS TOO CONCERNED ABOUT FINDING AMOK AND RETURNING TO HIS TRIBE.

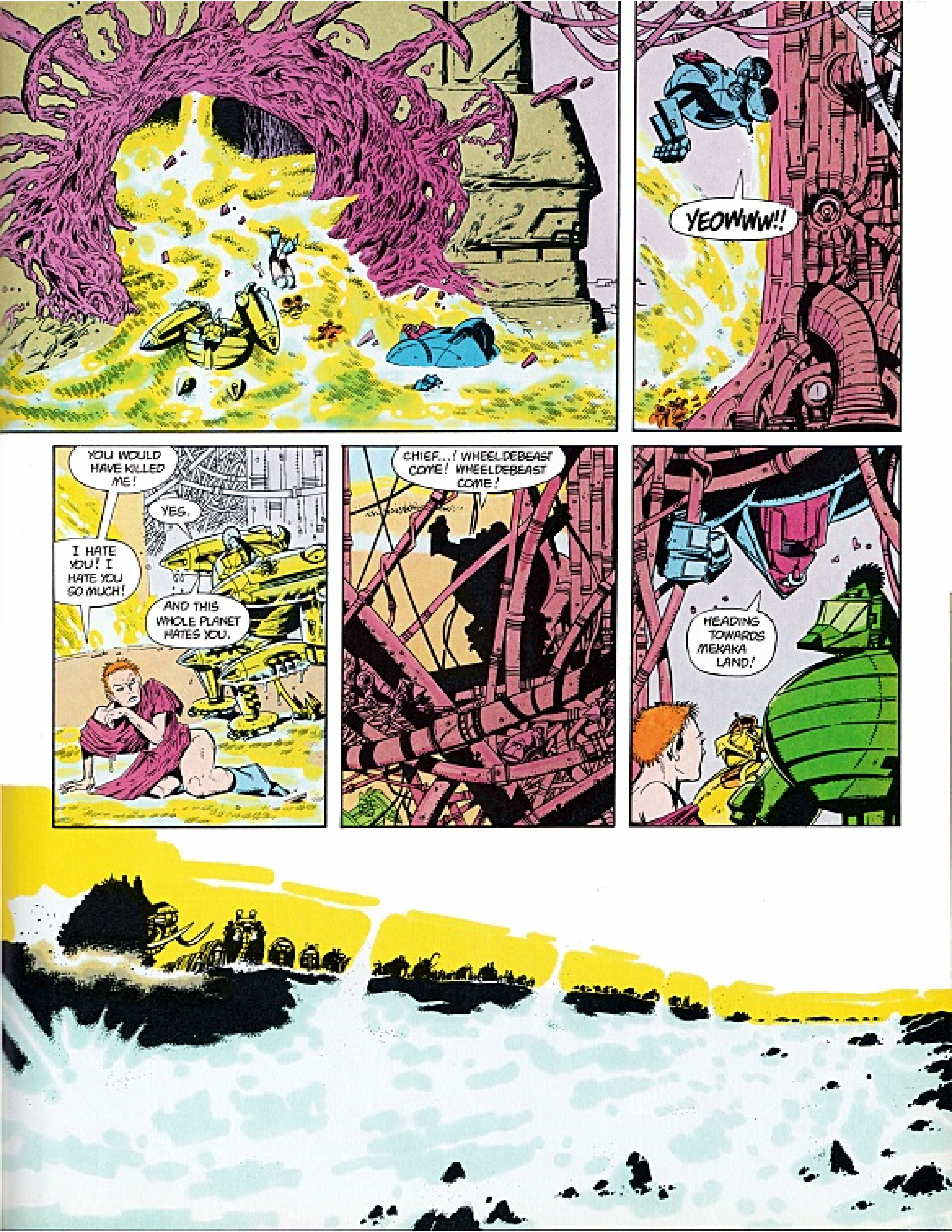

HE DIDN'T LIKE LEAVING VENGOID IN CHARGE FOR TOO LONG -- IN CASE HE TRIED TO TAKE OVER.
NOT THAT HIS BROTHER WOULD -- VENGOID LACKED ARMAGEDDON'S TREACHEROUS NATURE. BUT ARMAGEDDON DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THIS.
LOOK!
PLANETARY RESCUE CENTER
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
OH, CAN'T YOU READ?
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS WORTH READING.
IT MEANS I CAN LEAVE THIS AWFUL WORLD! IT MEANS *CIVILIZATION!*
HELLO...?

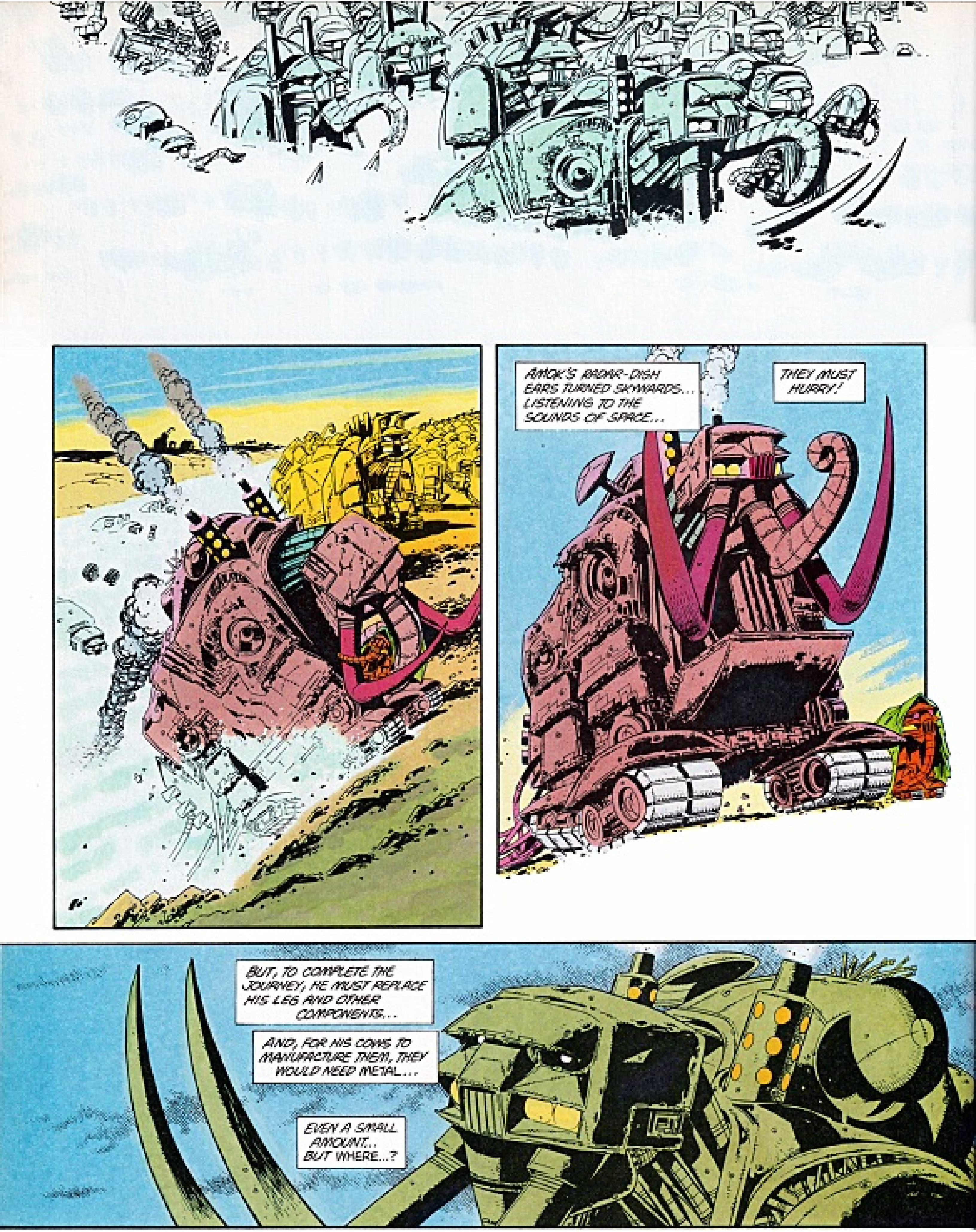

ANYONE AT HOME?
WHAT... MEANS... CIVILIZATION?
IT'S...PRESSING BUTTONS! TELEPORTING ACROSS PLANETS! IT'S HAVING ROBOTS BRING ME WHATEVER I LIKE! WATCHING GAME-SHOWS ON THE SCREENLESS...
...AND FINDING A JOHN WHENEVER YOU WANT ONE!
CIVILIZATION?
HEH HEH CIVILIZATION.

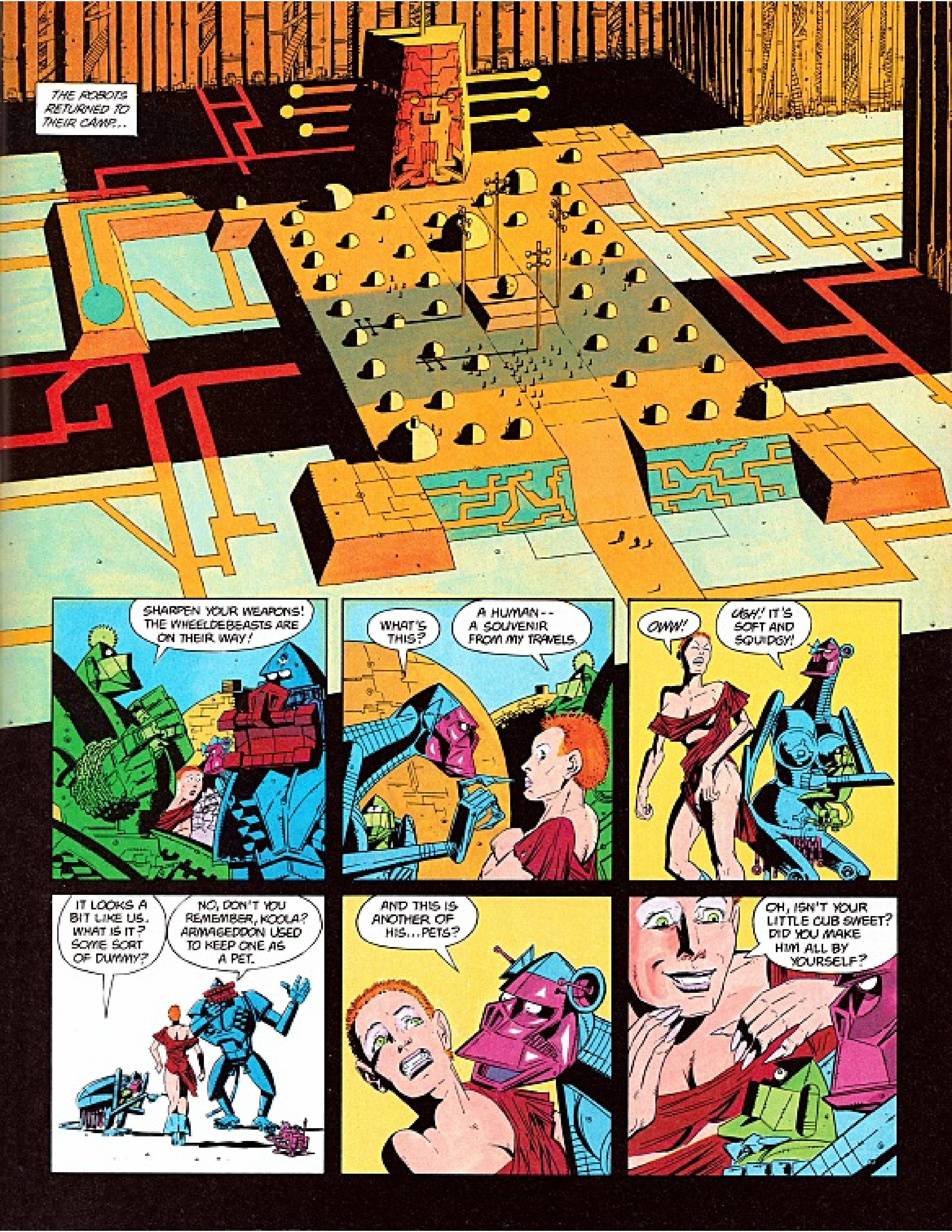

OH, I LIKE IT!
THEN YOU'RE EASILY PLEASED.
BUT... WHERE HAVE ALL THE PEOPLE GONE?
THE RECEPTION ROOM WAS FILLED WITH THE SWEET SCENT OF FRESHLY CUT GRASS...
...REMINDING ARMAGEDDON OF A CARNIVOROUS TRAFFID HE'D KEPT AS A BOY...
HE'D FED ROBOTS TO THE PLANT. BUT ALTHOUGH IT HAPPILY DIGESTED THEM, IT REFUSED TO GROW...
THE WORDS ON THIS MAGAZINE ARE BLURRED...
...UNTIL HE GAVE IT A HUMAN... AND, IN A WEEK, IT TRIPLED IN SIZE--ITS SHINY LEAVES GLOSSY WITH HEALTH...
...AND THE PAGES INSIDE ARE--BLANK!
...LIKE THIS SHINY, GLOSSY ROOM!
GET OUT! IT'S A TRAFFID!
ITS GLANDS STIMULATED BY THE PRESENCE OF FLESH, THE TRAFFID TILTED THE ROOM...
THE FLOOR WAS COATED WITH A WAX SECRETION, SO VICTIMS WOULD SLIDE DOWN...

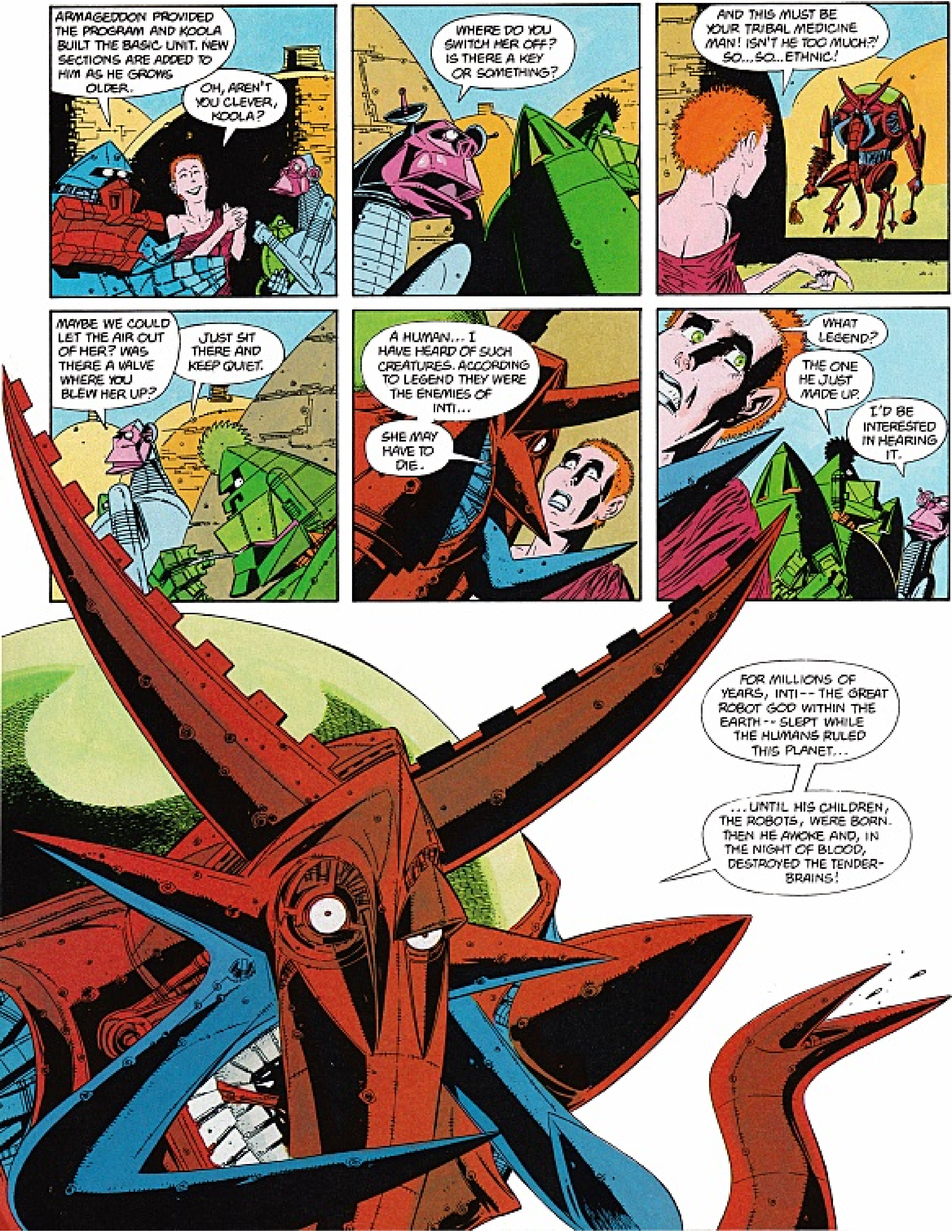

...INTO ITS STOMACH...
...WHICH BEGAN TO FILL WITH A RICH DIGESTIVE BROTH.
IT'S LIKE BEING IN A POOL OF SICK...
CUT YOUR WAY OUT!
THE WALLS ARE TOO THICK.
RRRRRR
RRRRRRRRRR
JOOL RECALLED THE STORIES SHE'D HEARD ABOUT TRAFFIDS...HOW THEY'D BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE LEGENDARY "GENIES"--THE GENETIC ENGINEERS--TO DUPLICATE ANY HUMAN ARTIFACT...

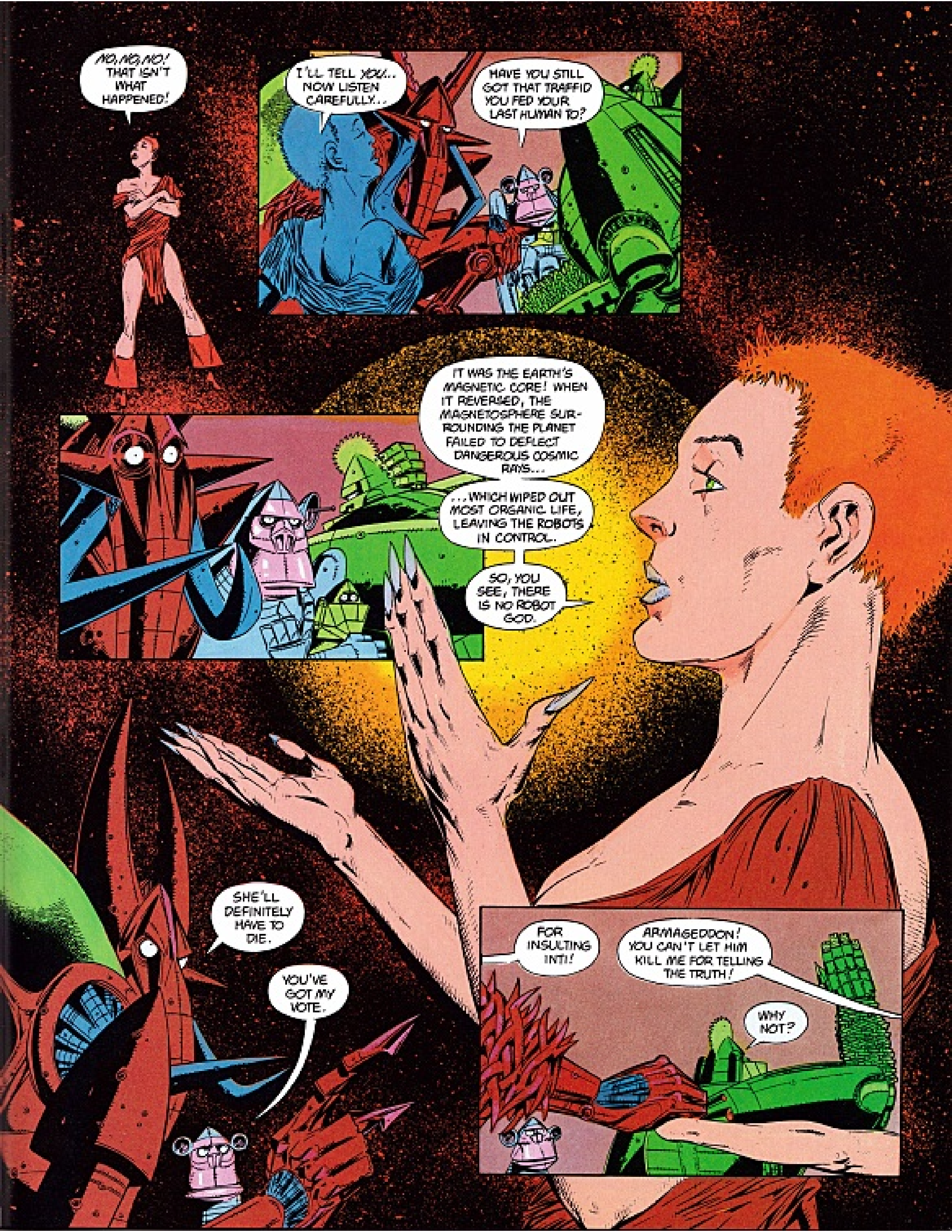

...MANY OF THEM TURNING INTO RAPACIOUS KILLERS...
IT'S THE HUMAN THE TRAFFID WANTS! MAYBE IF I KILL HER, IT'LL STOP THE PROCESS...
OF COURSE, THERE'S ONE OTHER OPTION... TROG'S MINER-BIRD EGG NECKLACE...
...THE MINERS USE THEM TO BLOW UP SUBWAY-WORMS.
WHAT ABOUT THE BLAST?
IT'S DIRECTED DOWNWARDS-- TO REACH THE WORM'S CAVES.
SNKT!
BUT I COULDN'T BE 100% ON THAT...

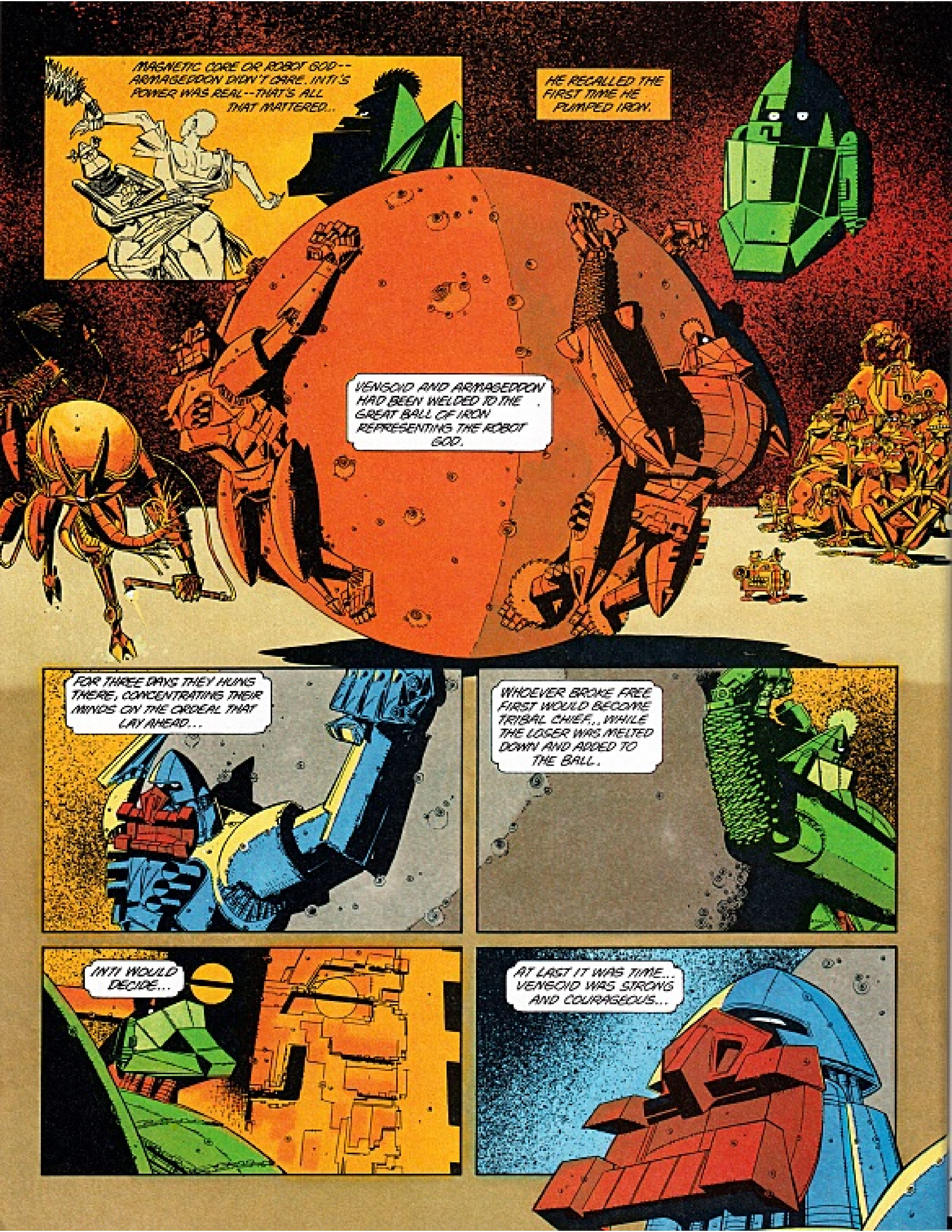

YEOWWW!!
YOU WOULD HAVE KILLED ME!
YES.
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU SO MUCH!
AND THIS WHOLE PLANET HATES YOU.
CHIEF...! WHEELDEBEAST COME! WHEELDEBEAST COME!
HEADING TOWARDS MEKAKA LAND!

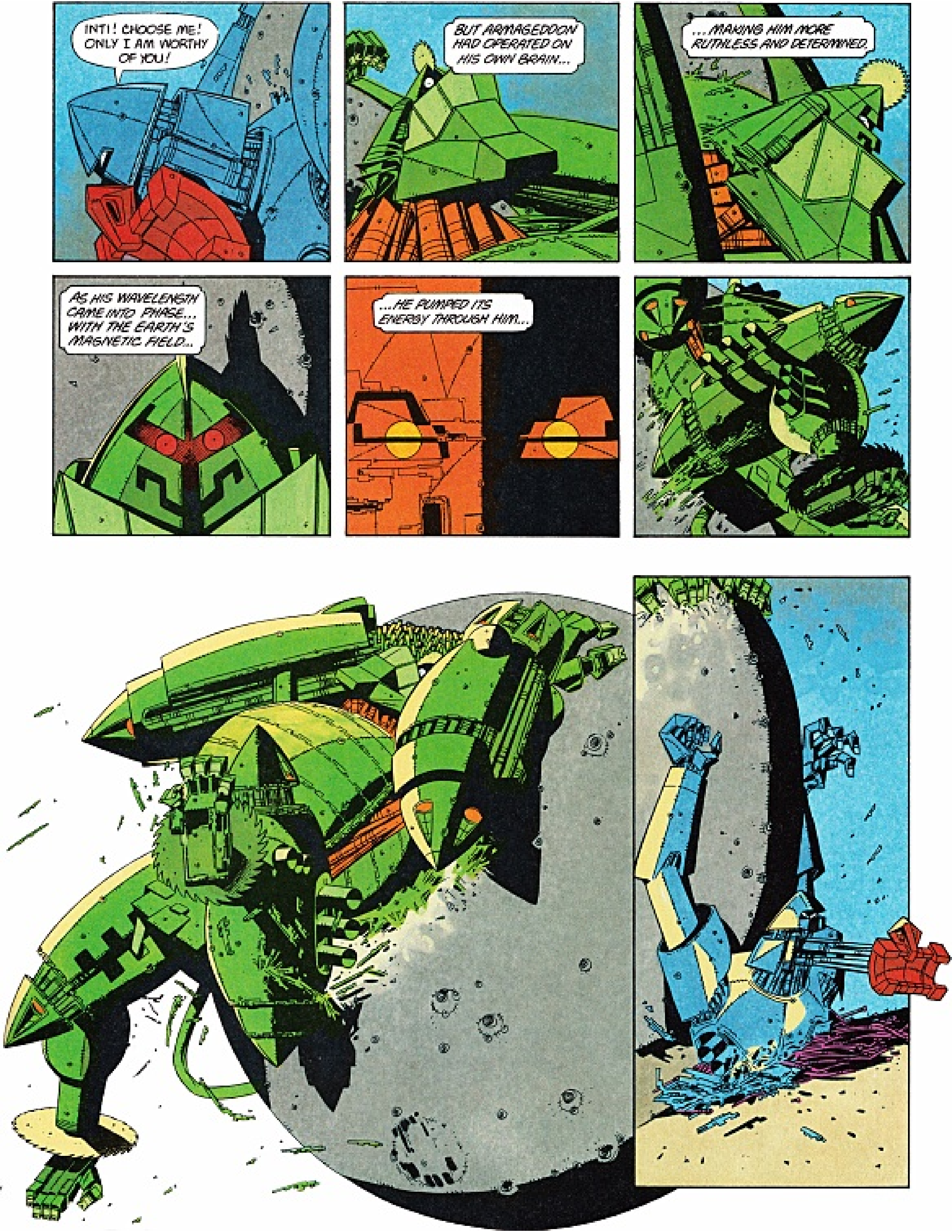

AMOK'S RADAR-DISH EARS TURNED SKYWARDS... LISTENING TO THE SOUNDS OF SPACE...
THEY MUST HURRY!
BUT, TO COMPLETE THE JOURNEY, HE MUST REPLACE HIS LEG AND OTHER COMPONENTS...
AND, FOR HIS COWS TO MANUFACTURE THEM, THEY WOULD NEED METAL...
EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT... BUT WHERE...?

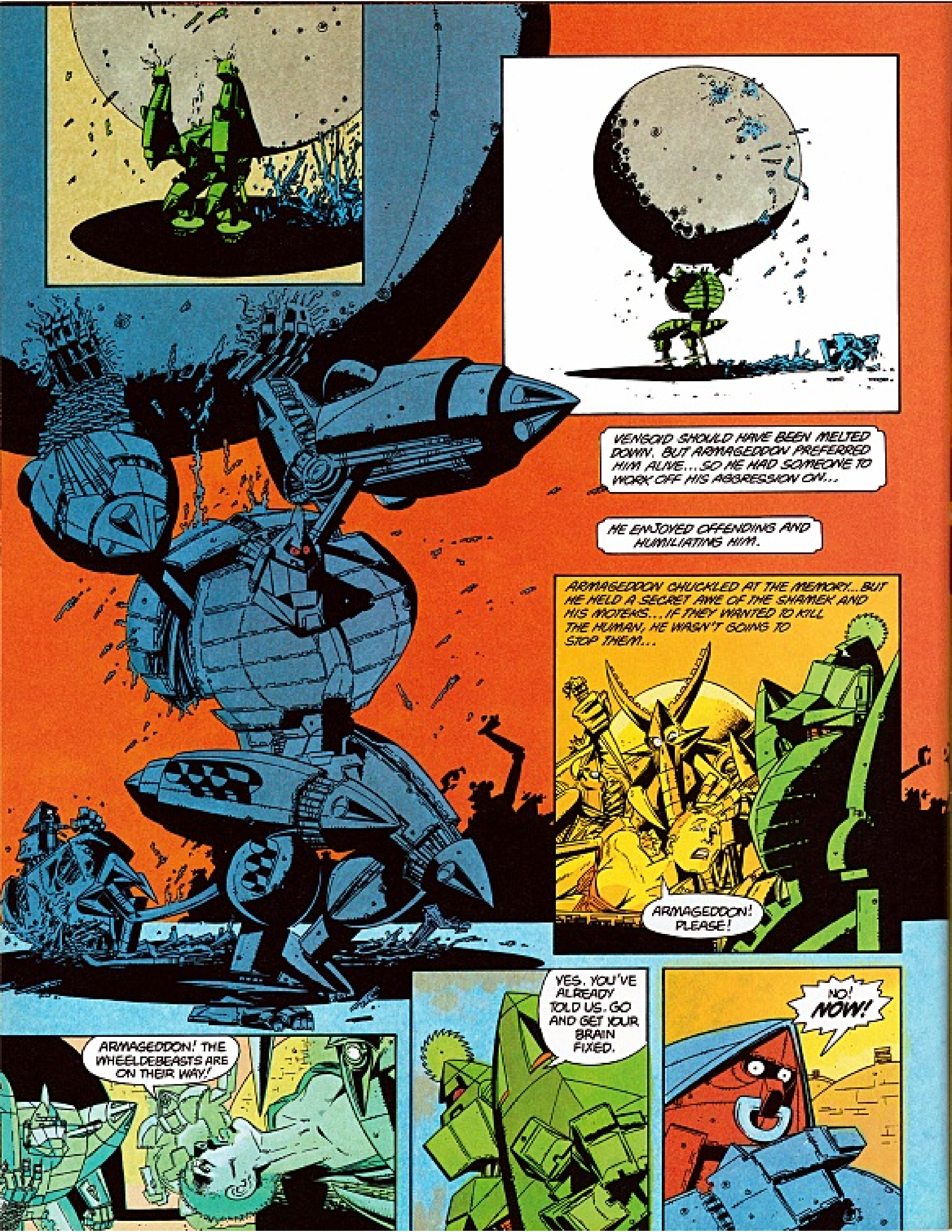

THE ROBOTS RETURNED TO THEIR CAMP...
SHARPEN YOUR WEAPONS! THE WHEELDEBEASTS ARE ON THEIR WAY!
WHAT'S THIS?
A HUMAN-- A SOUVENIR FROM MY TRAVELS.
OWW!
UGH! IT'S SOFT AND SQUIDGY!
IT LOOKS A BIT LIKE US. WHAT IS IT? SOME SORT OF DUMMY?
NO, DON'T YOU REMEMBER, KOOLA? ARMAGEDDON USED TO KEEP ONE AS A PET.
AND THIS IS ANOTHER OF HIS...PETS?
OH, ISN'T YOUR LITTLE CUB SWEET? DID YOU MAKE HIM ALL BY YOURSELF?

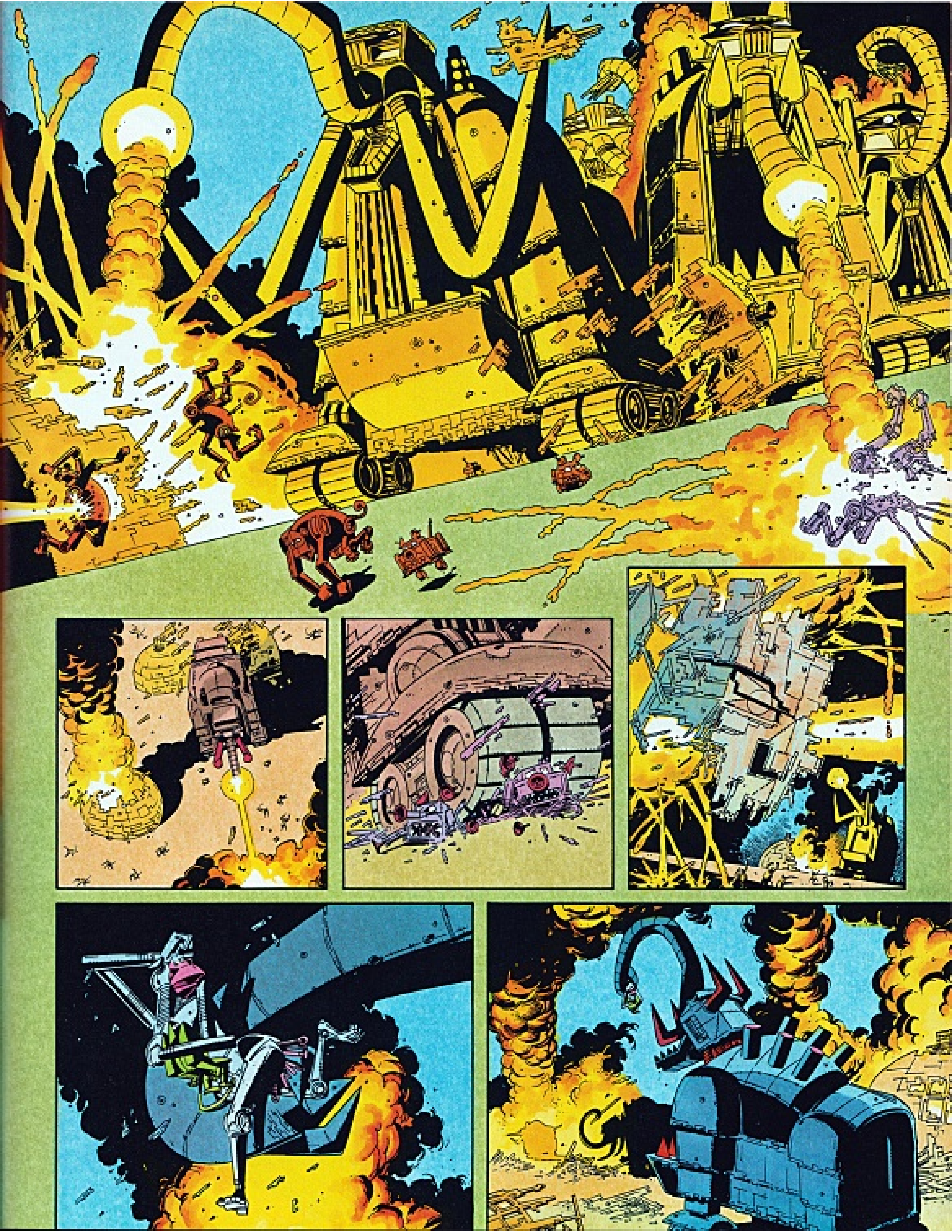

ARMAGEDDON PROVIDED THE PROGRAM AND KOOLA BUILT THE BASIC UNIT. NEW SECTIONS ARE ADDED TO HIM AS HE GROWS OLDER.
OH, AREN'T YOU CLEVER, KOOLA?
WHERE DO YOU SWITCH HER OFF? IS THERE A KEY OR SOMETHING?
AND THIS MUST BE YOUR TRIBAL MEDICINE MAN! ISN'T HE TOO MUCH?! SO...SO...ETHNIC!
MAYBE WE COULD LET THE AIR OUT OF HER? WAS THERE A VALVE WHERE YOU BLEW HER UP?
JUST SIT THERE AND KEEP QUIET.
A HUMAN... I HAVE HEARD OF SUCH CREATURES. ACCORDING TO LEGEND THEY WERE THE ENEMIES OF INTI...
SHE MAY HAVE TO DIE.
WHAT LEGEND?
THE ONE HE JUST MADE UP.
I'D BE INTERESTED IN HEARING IT.
FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS, INTI -- THE GREAT ROBOT GOD WITHIN THE EARTH -- SLEPT WHILE THE HUMANS RULED THIS PLANET...
...UNTIL HIS CHILDREN, THE ROBOTS, WERE BORN. THEN HE AWOKE AND, IN THE NIGHT OF BLOOD, DESTROYED THE TENDER-BRAINS!

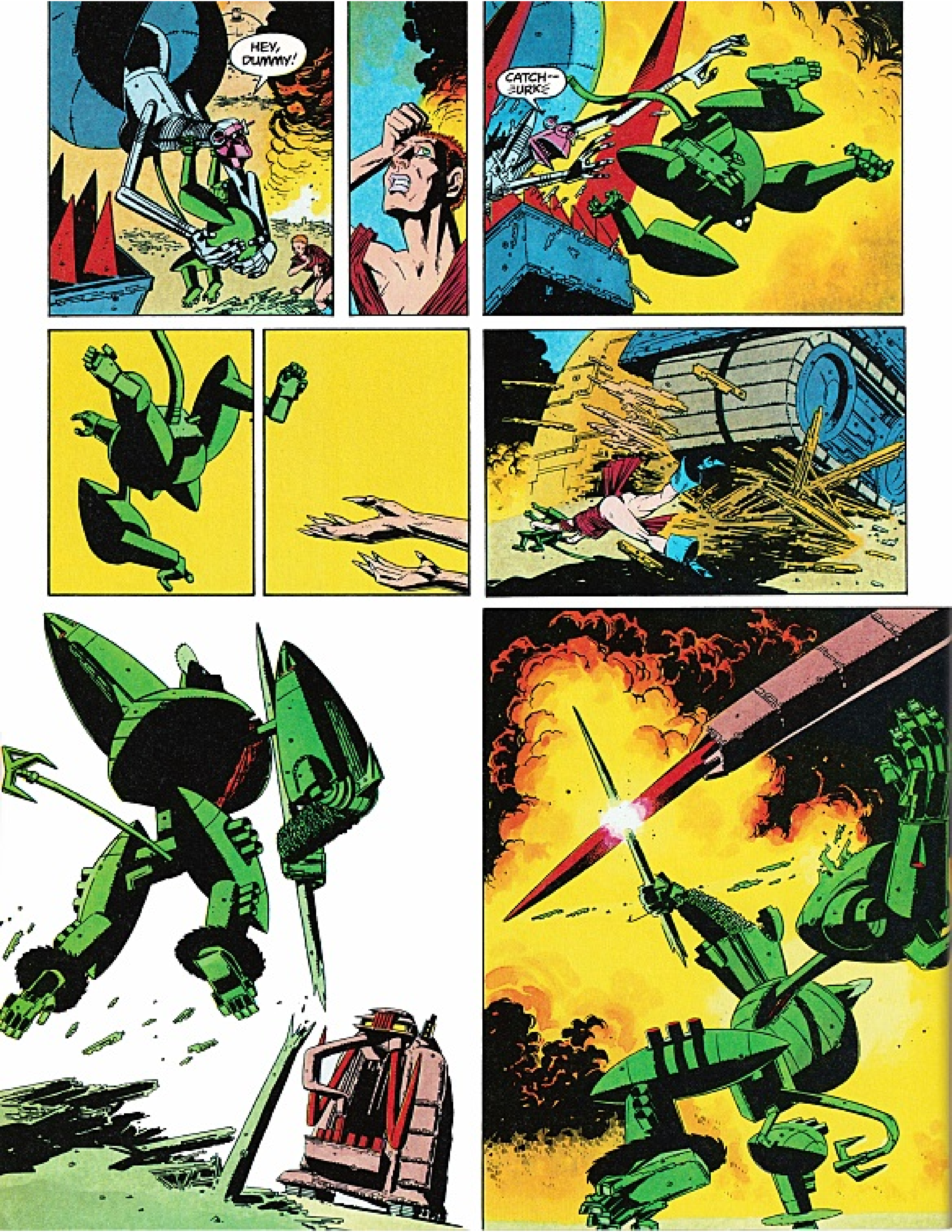

NO, NO, NO! THAT ISN'T WHAT HAPPENED!
I'LL TELL YOU... NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY...
HAVE YOU STILL GOT THAT TRAFFID YOU FED YOUR LAST HUMAN TO?
IT WAS THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC CORE! WHEN IT REVERSED, THE MAGNETOSPHERE SURROUNDING THE PLANET FAILED TO DEFLECT DANGEROUS COSMIC RAYS...
...WHICH WIPED OUT MOST ORGANIC LIFE, LEAVING THE ROBOTS IN CONTROL.
SO, YOU SEE, THERE IS NO ROBOT GOD.
SHE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE TO DIE.
YOU'VE GOT MY VOTE.
FOR INSULTING INTI!
ARMAGEDDON! YOU CAN'T LET HIM KILL ME FOR TELLING THE TRUTH!
WHY NOT?

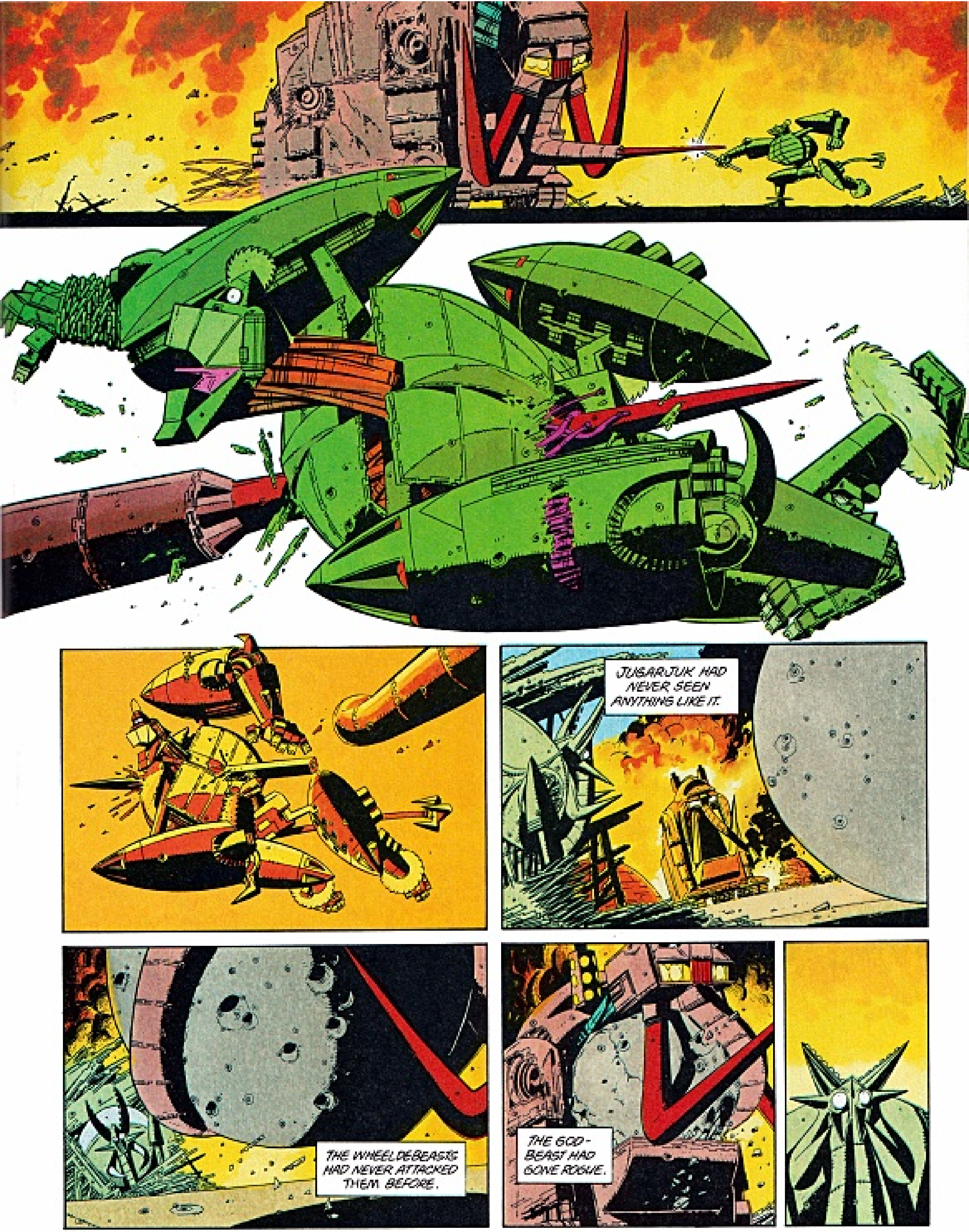

MAGNETIC CORE OR ROBOT GOD-- ARMAGEDDON DIDN'T CARE. INTI'S POWER WAS REAL--THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERED...
HE RECALLED THE FIRST TIME HE PUMPED IRON.
VENGOID AND ARMAGEDDON HAD BEEN WELDED TO THE GREAT BALL OF IRON REPRESENTING THE ROBOT GOD.
FOR THREE DAYS THEY HUNG THERE, CONCENTRATING THEIR MINDS ON THE ORDEAL THAT LAY AHEAD...
WHOEVER BROKE FREE FIRST WOULD BECOME TRIBAL CHIEF,, WHILE THE LOSER WAS MELTED DOWN AND ADDED TO THE BALL.
INTI WOULD DECIDE...
AT LAST IT WAS TIME... VENGOID WAS STRONG AND COURAGEOUS...

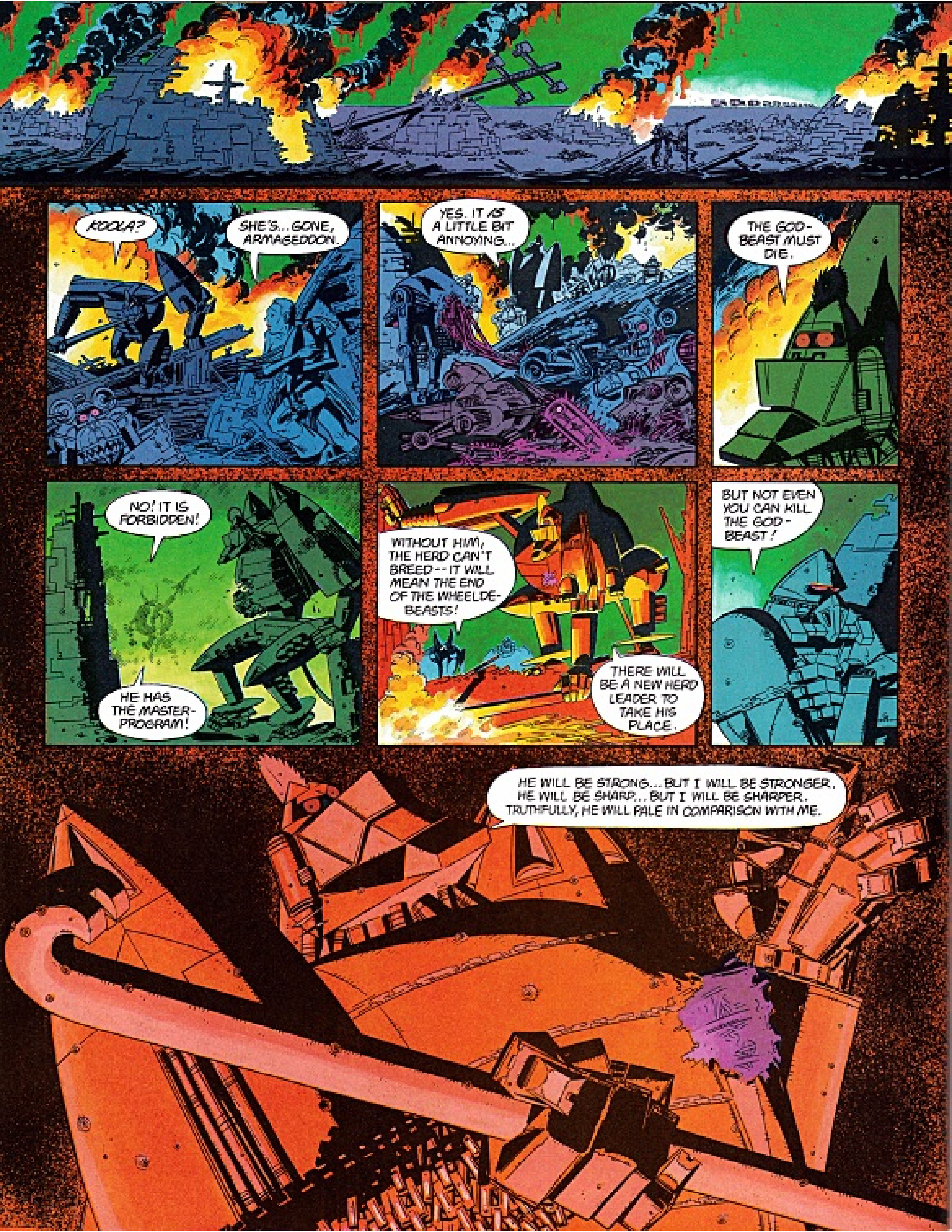

INTI! CHOOSE ME! ONLY I AM WORTHY OF YOU!
BUT ARMAGEDDON HAD OPERATED ON HIS OWN BRAIN...
...MAKING HIM MORE RUTHLESS AND DETERMINED.
AS HIS WAVELENGTH CAME INTO PHASE... WITH THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD...
...HE PUMPED ITS ENERGY THROUGH HIM...

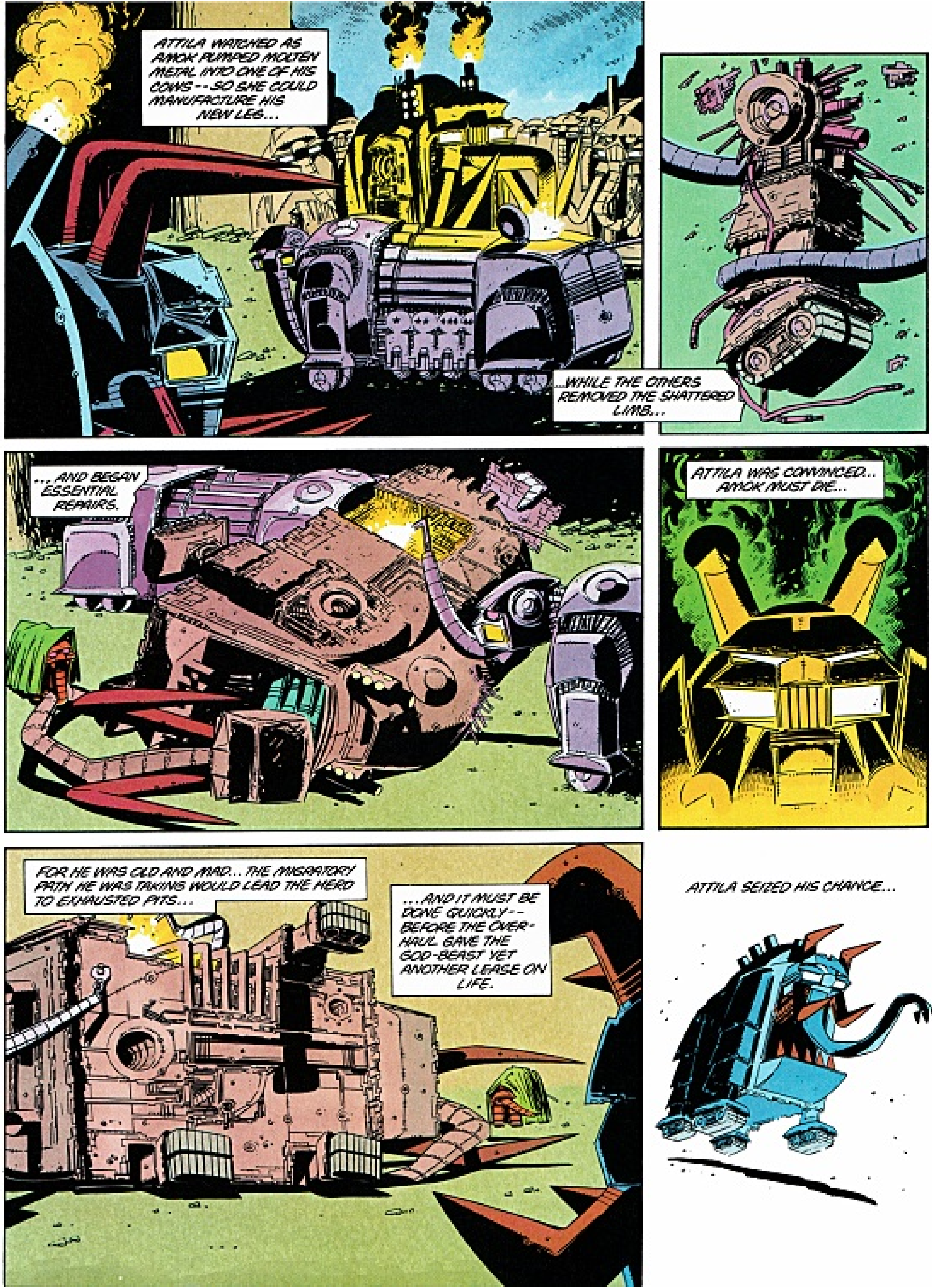

VENGOID SHOULD HAVE BEEN MELTED DOWN. BUT ARMAGEDDON PREFERRED HIM ALIVE... SO HE HAD SOMEONE TO WORK OFF HIS AGGRESSION ON...
HE ENJOYED OFFENDING AND HUMILIATING HIM.
ARMAGEDDON CHUCKLED AT THE MEMORY... BUT HE HELD A SECRET AWE OF THE SHAMEK AND HIS MOTEKS... IF THEY WANTED TO KILL THE HUMAN, HE WASN'T GOING TO STOP THEM...
ARMAGEDDON! PLEASE!
ARMAGEDDON! THE WHEELDEBEASTS ARE ON THEIR WAY!
YES. YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD US. GO AND GET YOUR BRAIN FIXED.
NO! NOW!

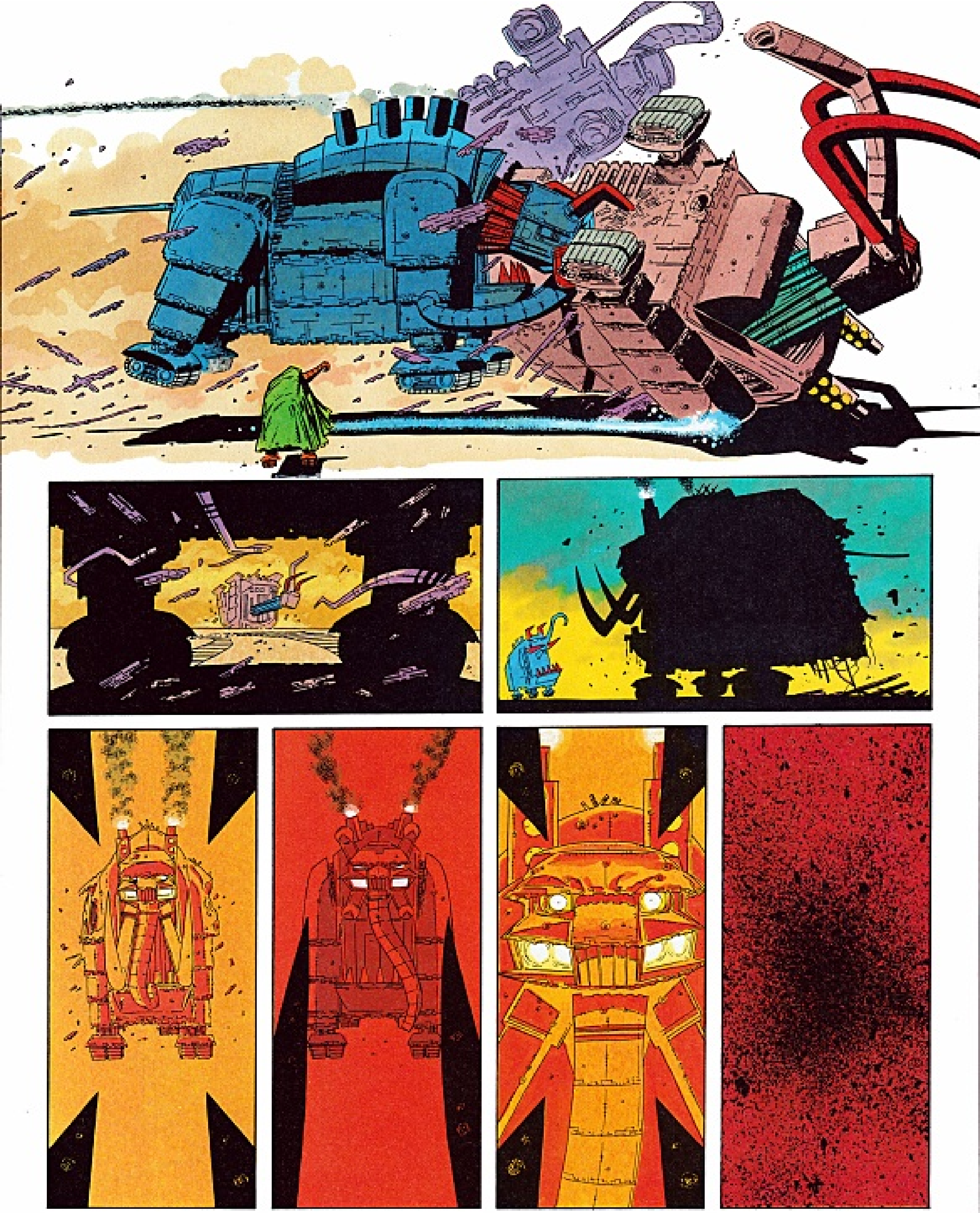


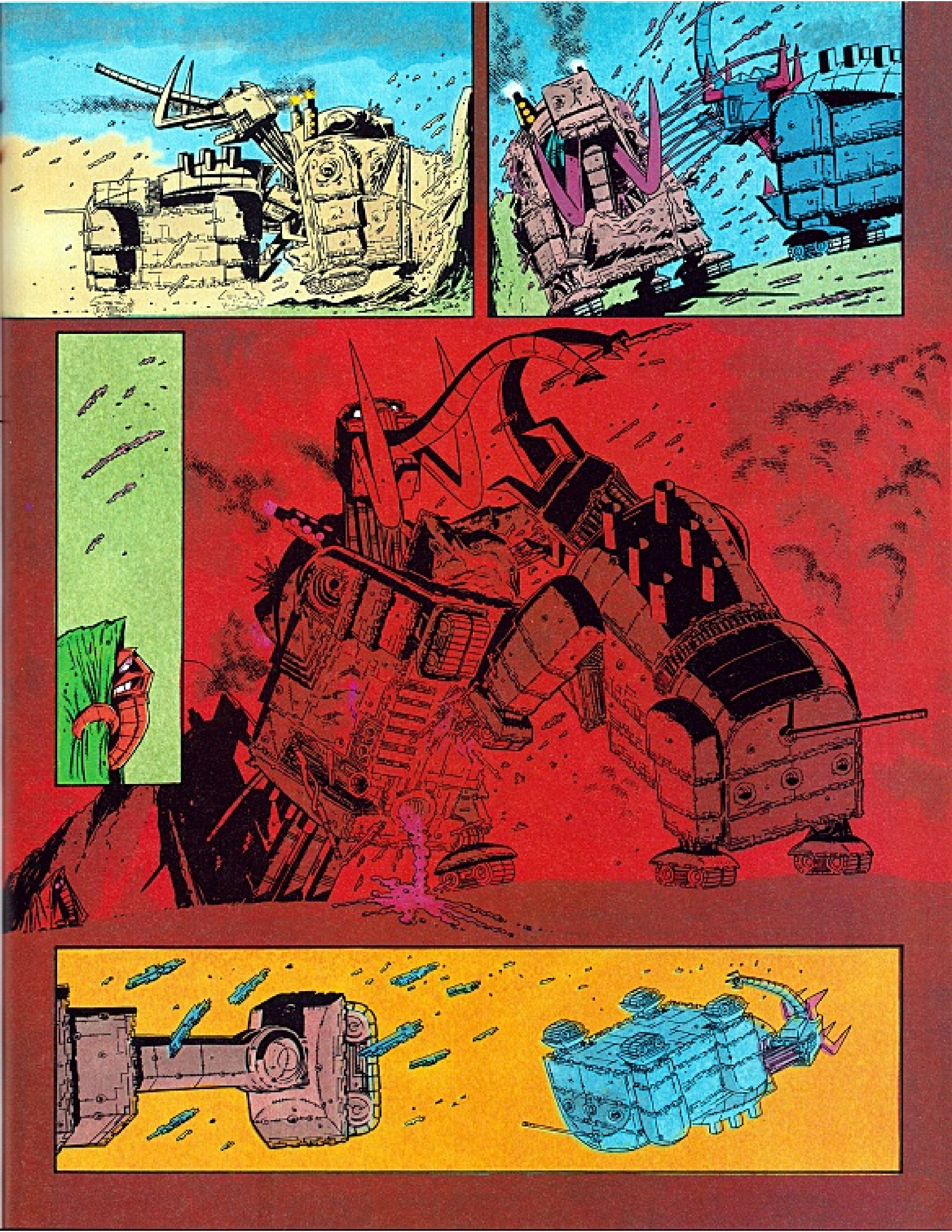

HEY, DUMMY!
CATCH-- URK!

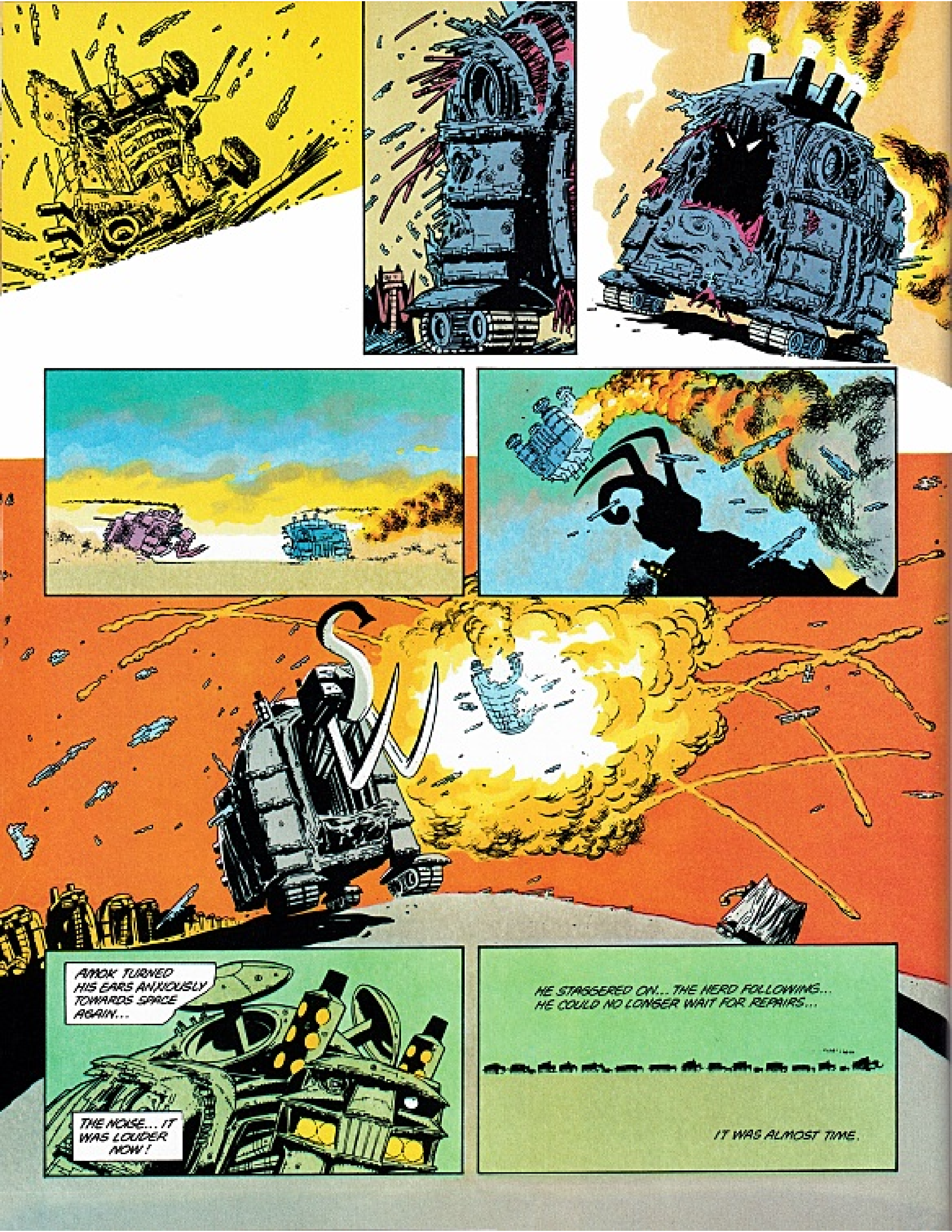

JUGARJUK HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
THE WHEELDEBEASTS HAD NEVER ATTACKED THEM BEFORE.
THE GOD-BEAST HAD GONE ROGUE.

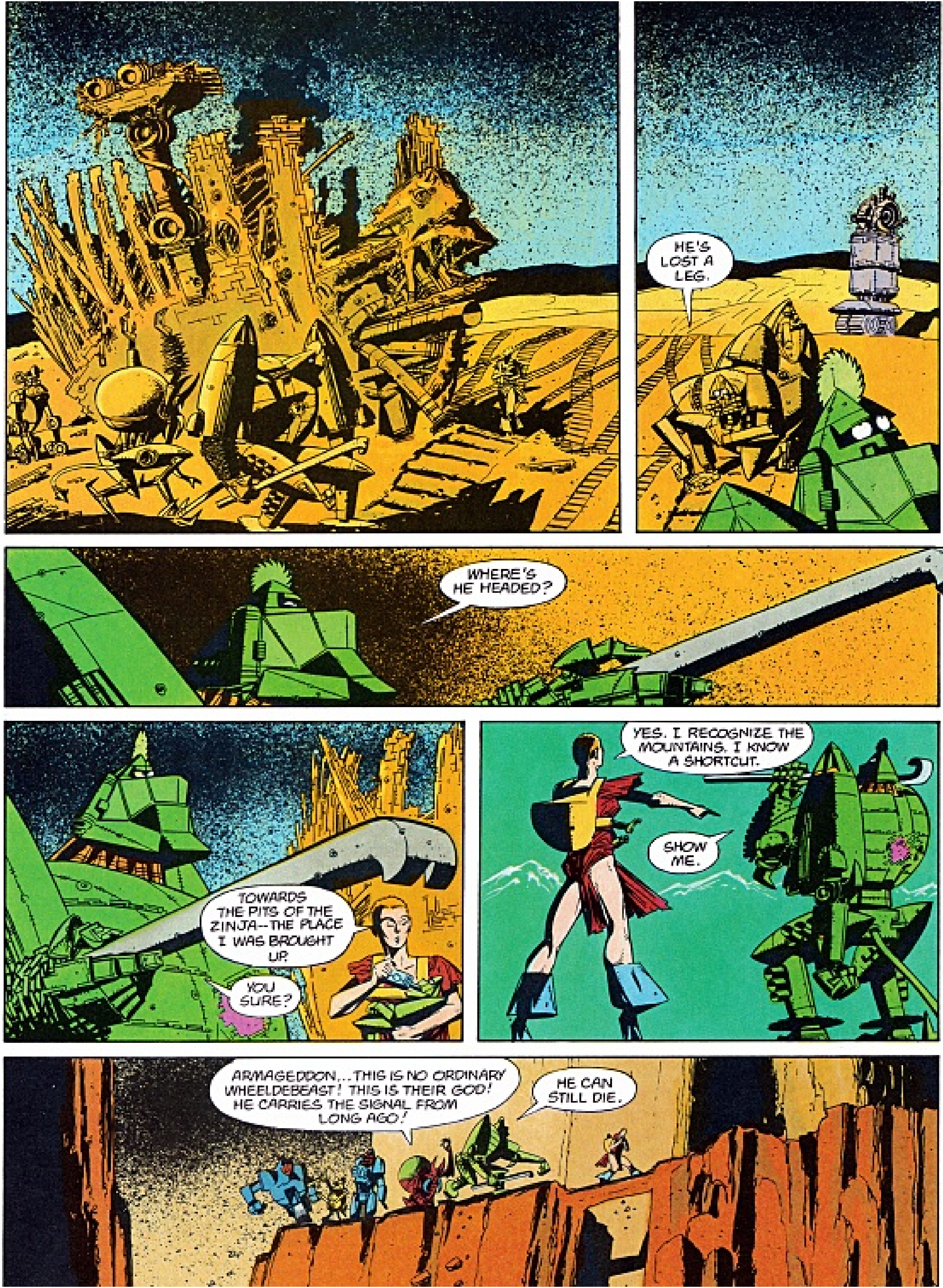

KOOLA?
SHE'S... GONE, ARMAGEDDON.
YES. IT IS A LITTLE BIT ANNOYING...
THE GOD-BEAST MUST DIE.
NO! IT IS FORBIDDEN!
HE HAS THE MASTER-PROGRAM!
WITHOUT HIM, THE HERD CAN'T BREED -- IT WILL MEAN THE END OF THE WHEELDEBEASTS!
THERE WILL BE A NEW HERD LEADER TO TAKE HIS PLACE.
BUT NOT EVEN YOU CAN KILL THE GOD-BEAST!
HE WILL BE STRONG... BUT I WILL BE STRONGER. HE WILL BE SHARP... BUT I WILL BE SHARPER. TRUTHFULLY, HE WILL PALE IN COMPARISON WITH ME.

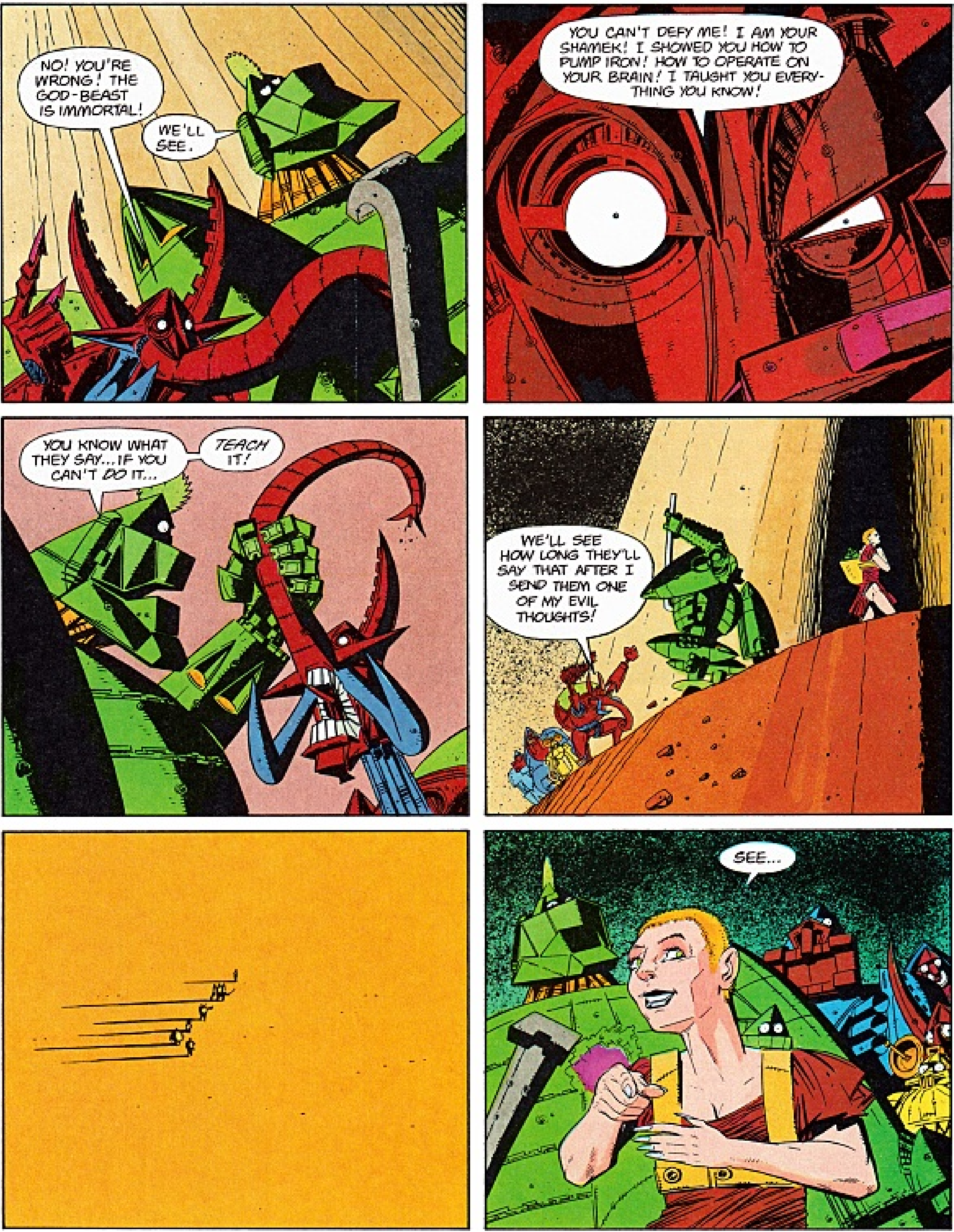

ATTILA WATCHED AS AMOK PUMPED MOLTEN METAL INTO ONE OF HIS COWS--SO SHE COULD MANUFACTURE HIS NEW LEG...
...WHILE THE OTHERS REMOVED THE SHATTERED LIMB...
...AND BEGAN ESSENTIAL REPAIRS.
ATTILA WAS CONVINCED... AMOK MUST DIE...
FOR HE WAS OLD AND MAD... THE MIGRATORY PATH HE WAS TAKING WOULD LEAD THE HERD TO EXHAUSTED PITS...
...AND IT MUST BE DONE QUICKLY--BEFORE THE OVERHAUL GAVE THE GOD-BEAST YET ANOTHER LEASE ON LIFE.
ATTILA SEIZED HIS CHANCE...

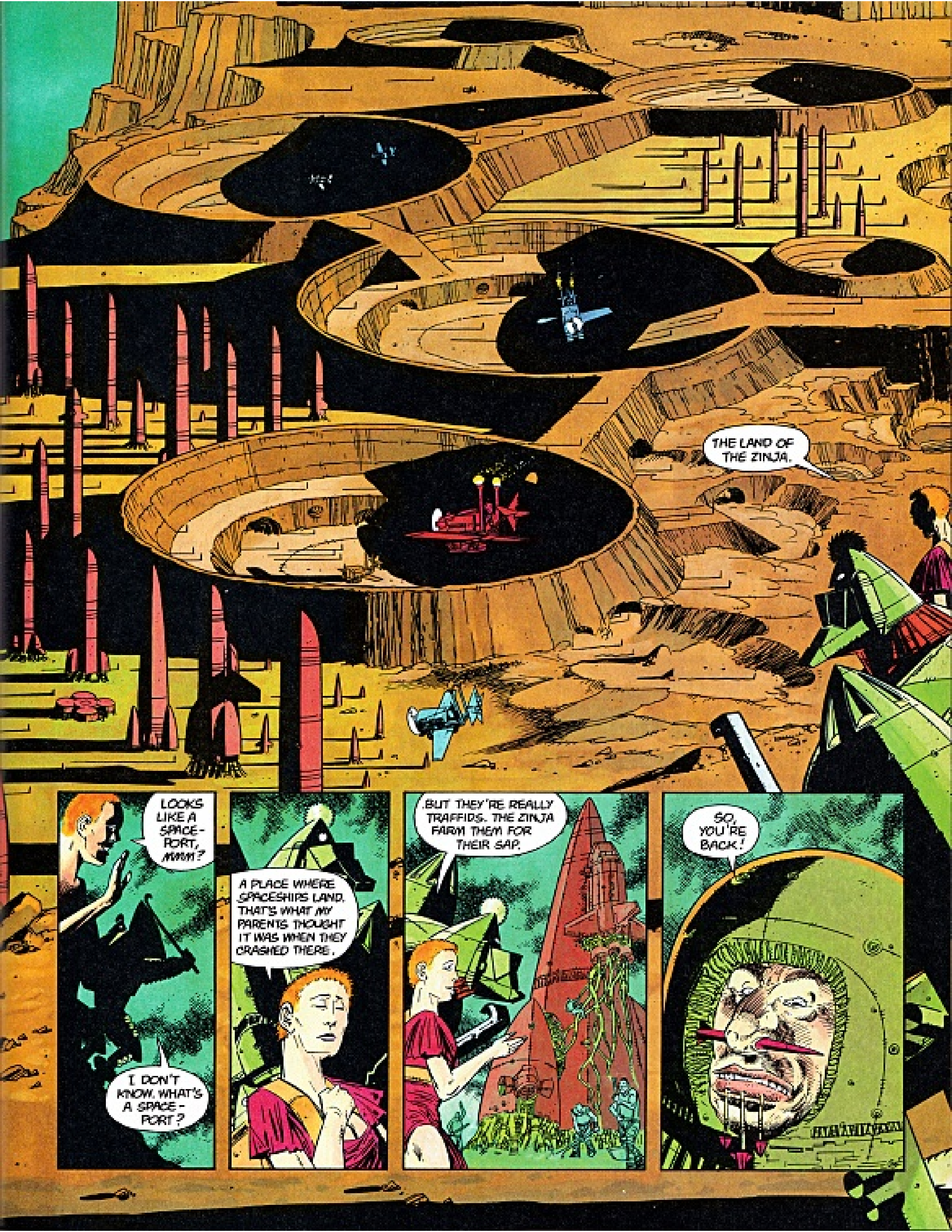


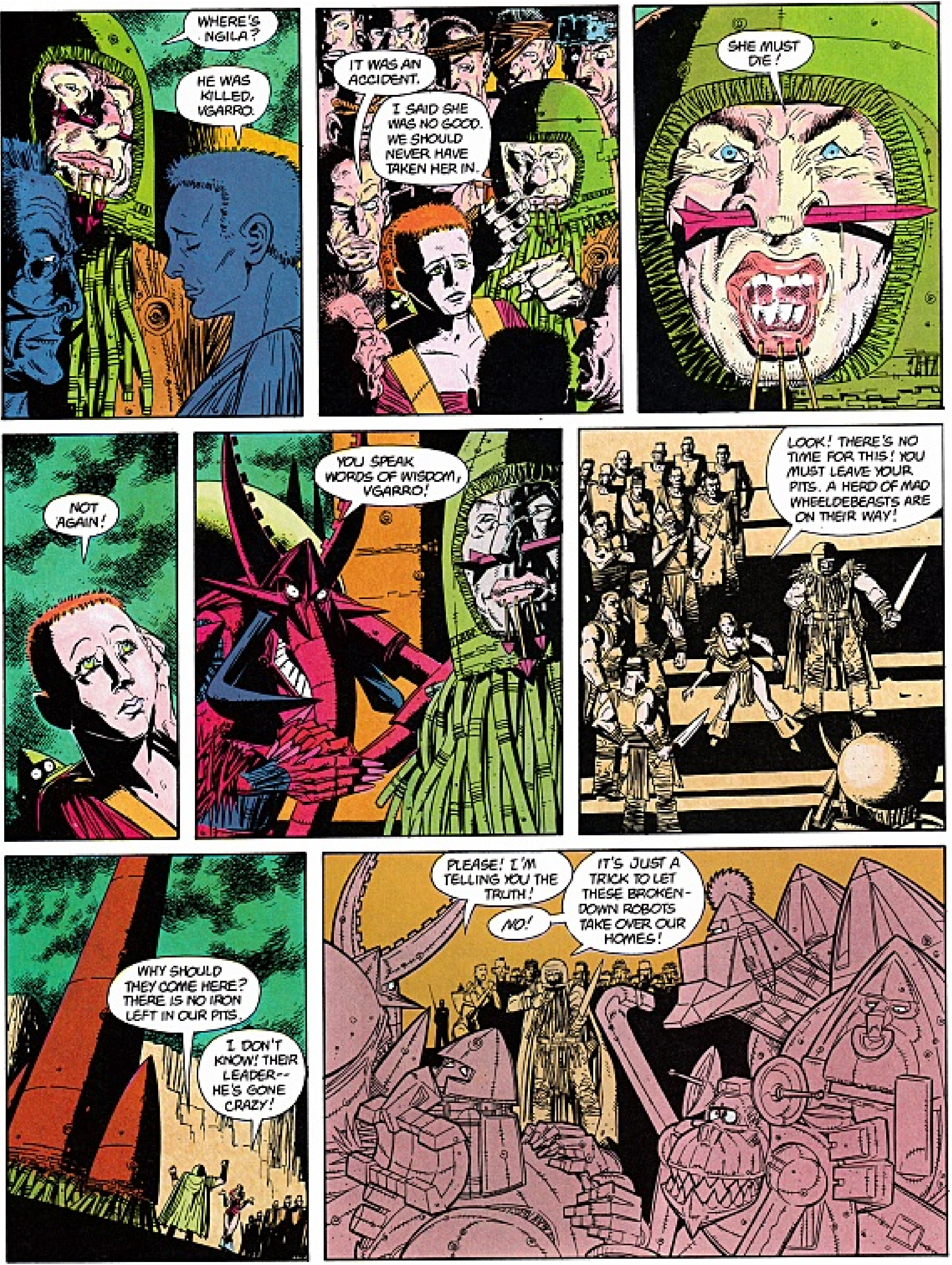


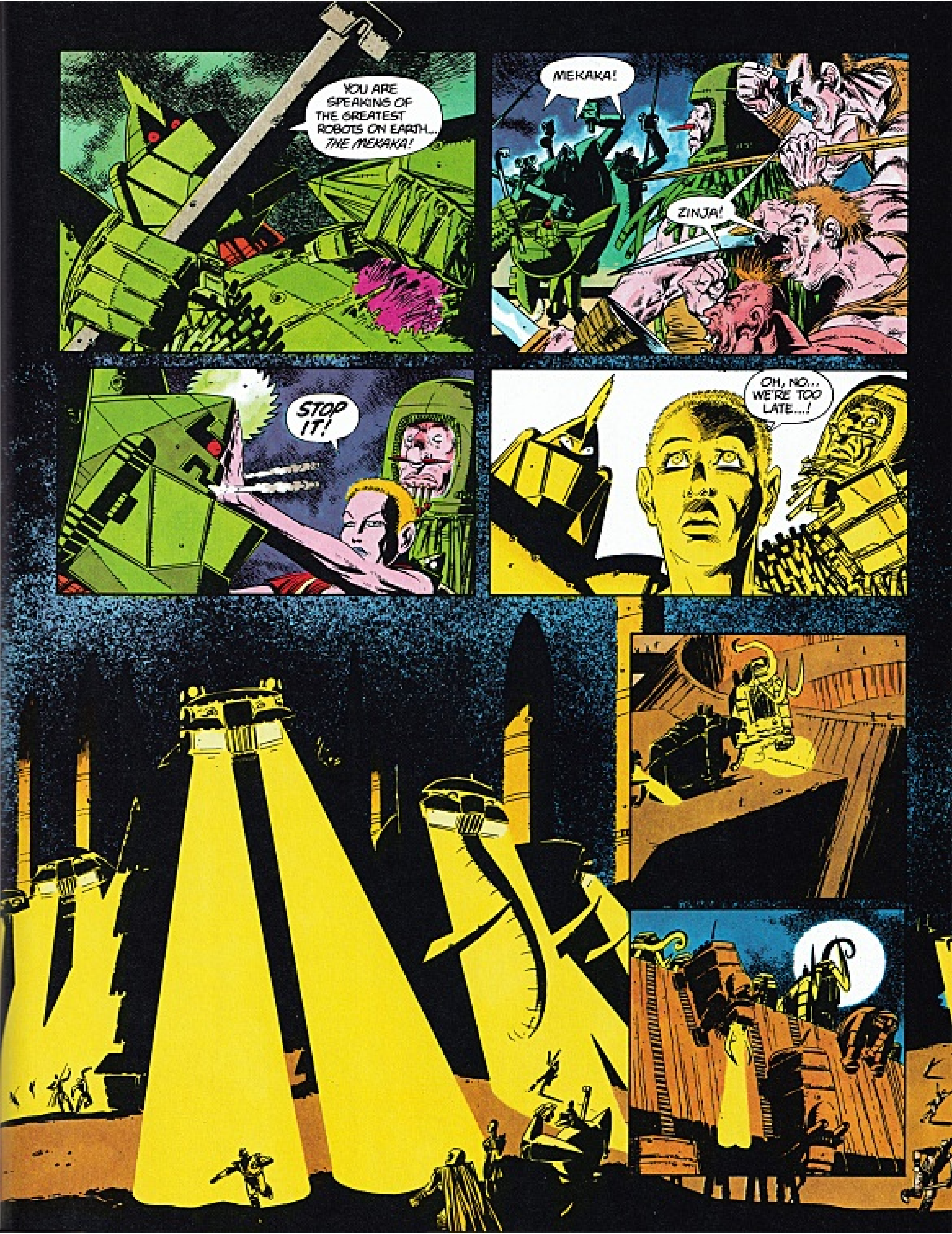

AMOK TURNED HIS EARS ANXIOUSLY TOWARDS SPACE AGAIN...
THE NOISE... IT WAS LOUDER NOW!
HE STAGGERED ON... THE HERD FOLLOWING... HE COULD NO LONGER WAIT FOR REPAIRS...
IT WAS ALMOST TIME.

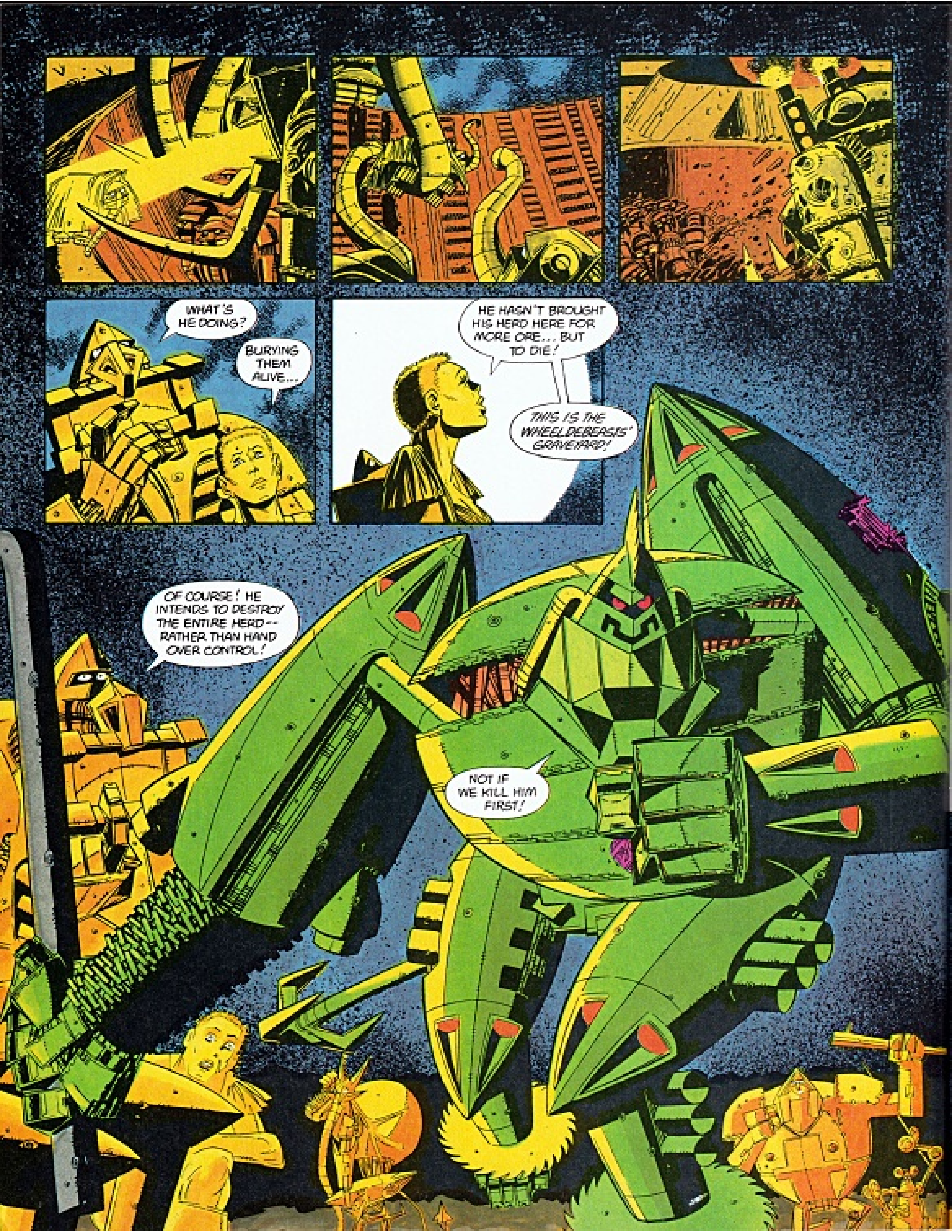

HE'S LOST A LEG.
WHERE'S HE HEADED?
TOWARDS THE PITS OF THE ZINJA--THE PLACE I WAS BROUGHT UP.
YOU SURE?
YES. I RECOGNIZE THE MOUNTAINS. I KNOW A SHORTCUT.
SHOW ME.
ARMAGEDDON...THIS IS NO ORDINARY WHEELDEBEAST! THIS IS THEIR GOD! HE CARRIES THE SIGNAL FROM LONG AGO!
HE CAN STILL DIE.

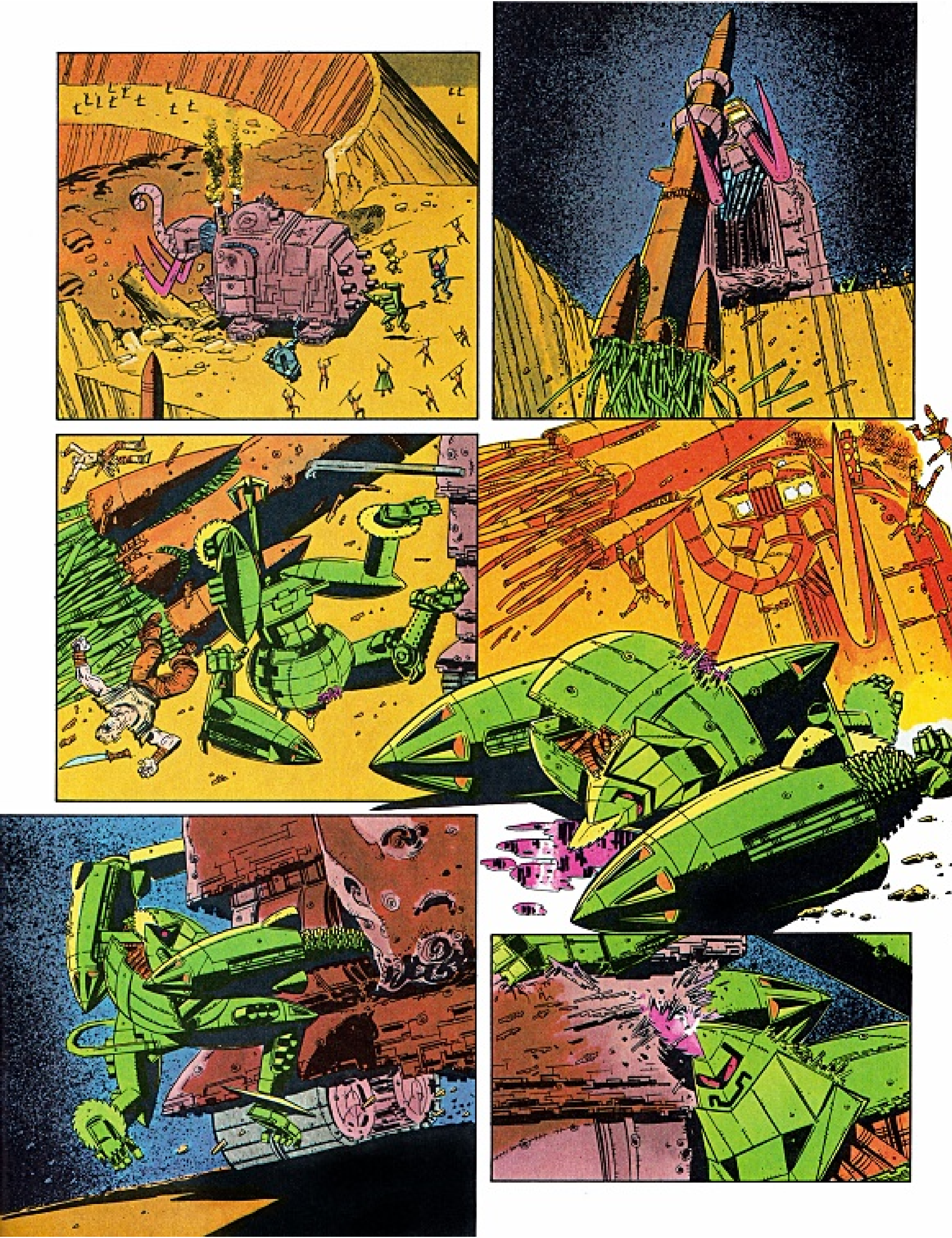

NO! YOU'RE WRONG! THE GOD-BEAST IS IMMORTAL!
WE'LL SEE.
YOU CAN'T DEFY ME! I AM YOUR SHAMEK! I SHOWED YOU HOW TO PUMP IRON! HOW TO OPERATE ON YOUR BRAIN! I TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...IF YOU CAN'T *DO* IT...
TEACH IT!
WE'LL SEE HOW LONG THEY'LL SAY THAT AFTER I SEND THEM ONE OF MY EVIL THOUGHTS!
SEE...

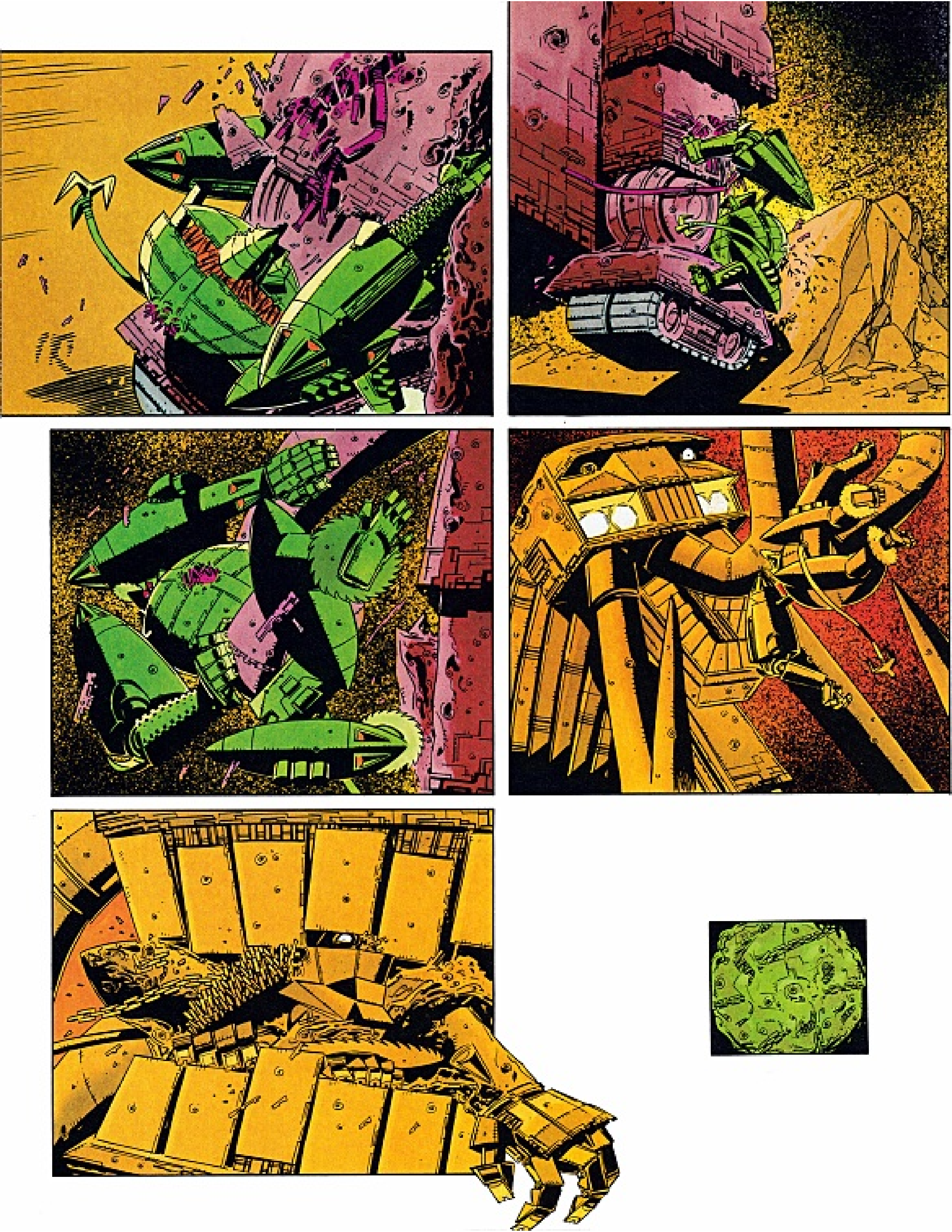

THE LAND OF THE ZINJA.
LOOKS LIKE A SPACE-PORT, MMM?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT'S A SPACE-PORT?
A PLACE WHERE SPACESHIPS LAND. THAT'S WHAT MY PARENTS THOUGHT IT WAS WHEN THEY CRASHED THERE.
..BUT THEY'RE REALLY TRAFFIDS. THE ZINJA FARM THEM FOR THEIR SAP.
SO, YOU'RE BACK!

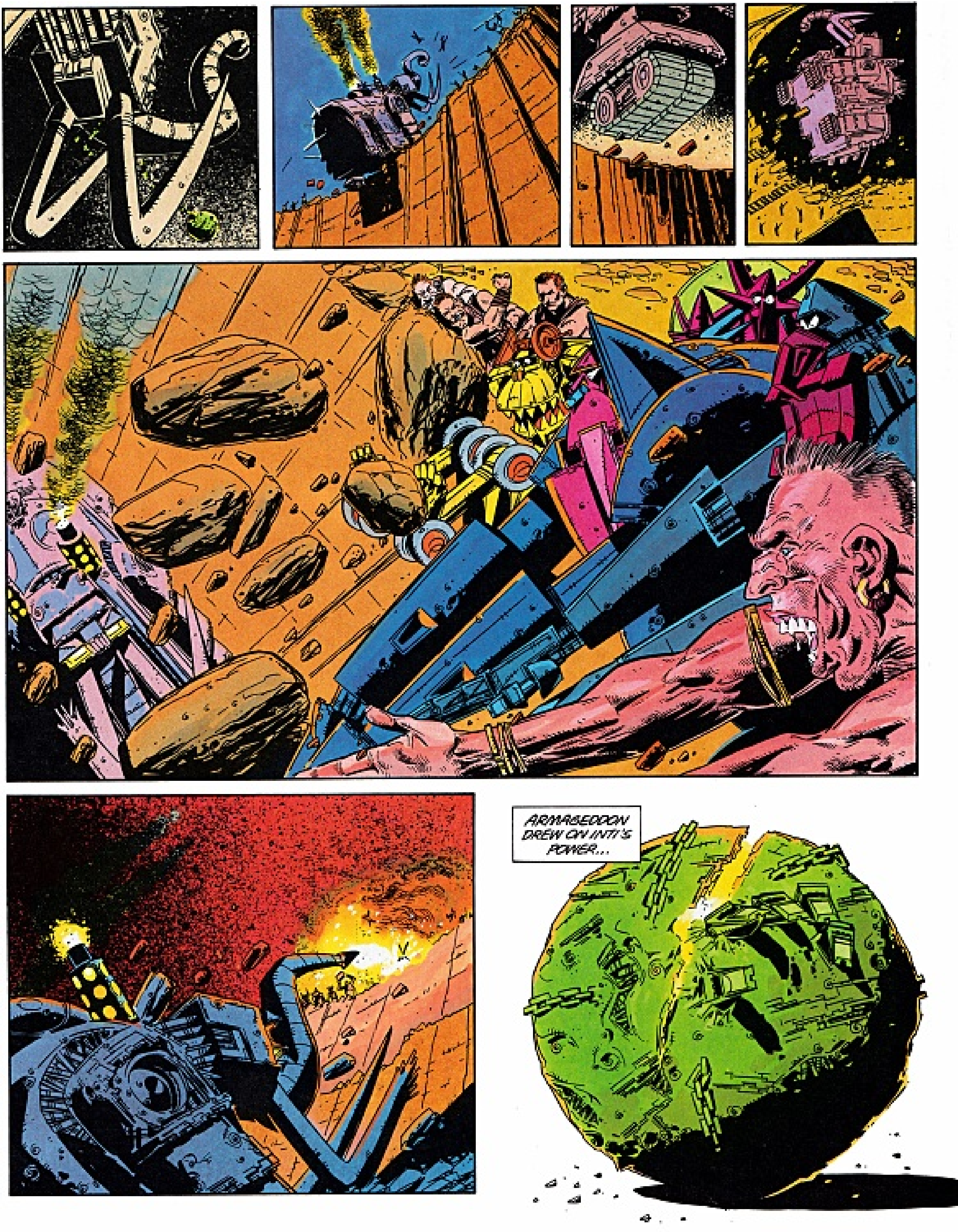

WHERE'S NGILA?
HE WAS KILLED, VGARRO.
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I SAID SHE WAS NO GOOD. WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN HER IN.
SHE MUST DIE!
NOT AGAIN!
YOU SPEAK WORDS OF WISDOM, VGARRO!
LOOK! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS! YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR PITS. A HERD OF MAD WHEELDEBEASTS ARE ON THEIR WAY!
WHY SHOULD THEY COME HERE? THERE IS NO IRON LEFT IN OUR PITS.
I DON'T KNOW! THEIR LEADER-- HE'S GONE CRAZY!
PLEASE! I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
NO!
IT'S JUST A TRICK TO LET THESE BROKEN-DOWN ROBOTS TAKE OVER OUR HOMES!

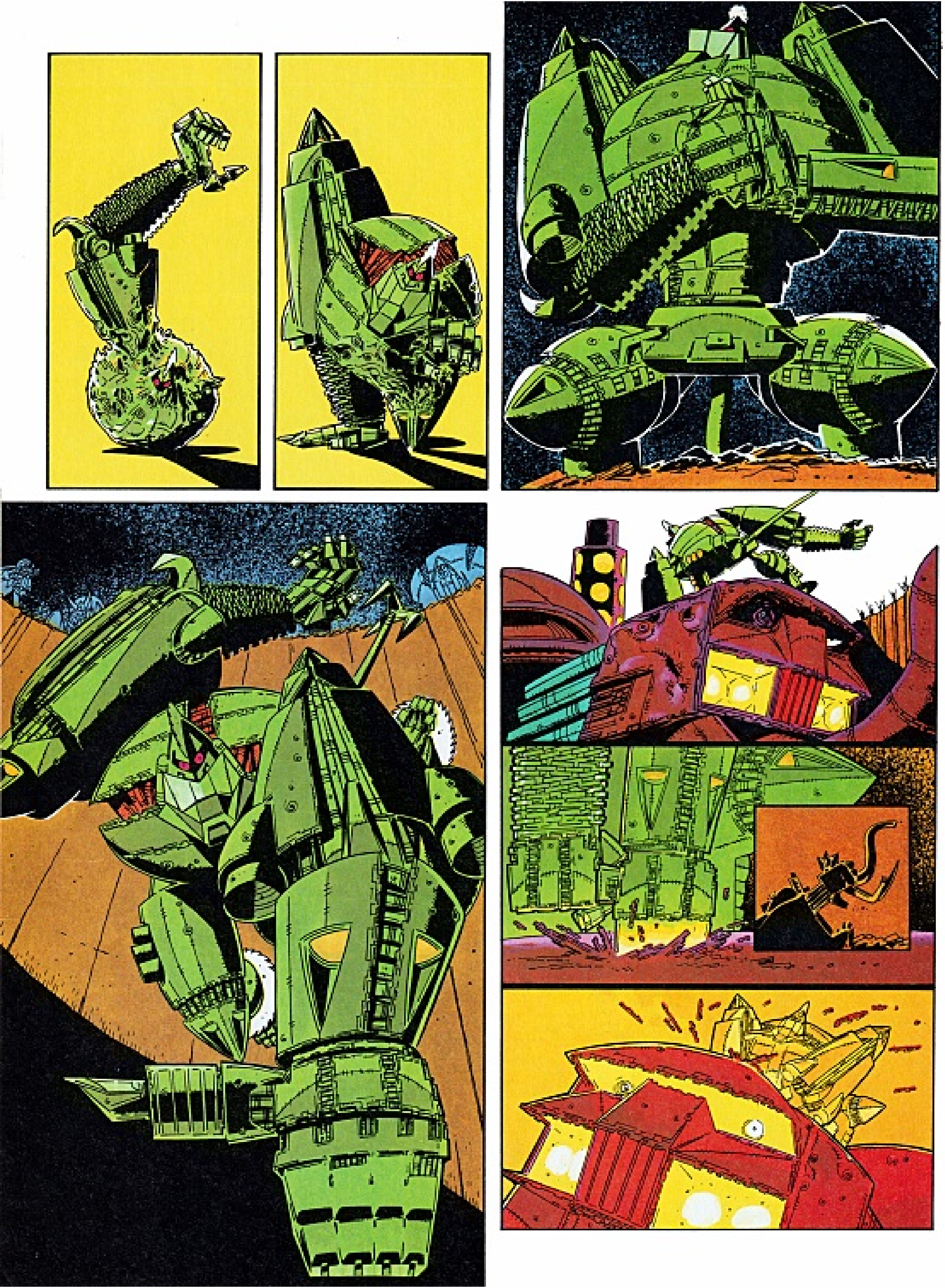

YOU ARE SPEAKING OF THE GREATEST ROBOTS ON EARTH... THE MEKAKA!
MEKAKA!
ZINJA!
STOP IT!
OH, NO... WE'RE TOO LATE...!

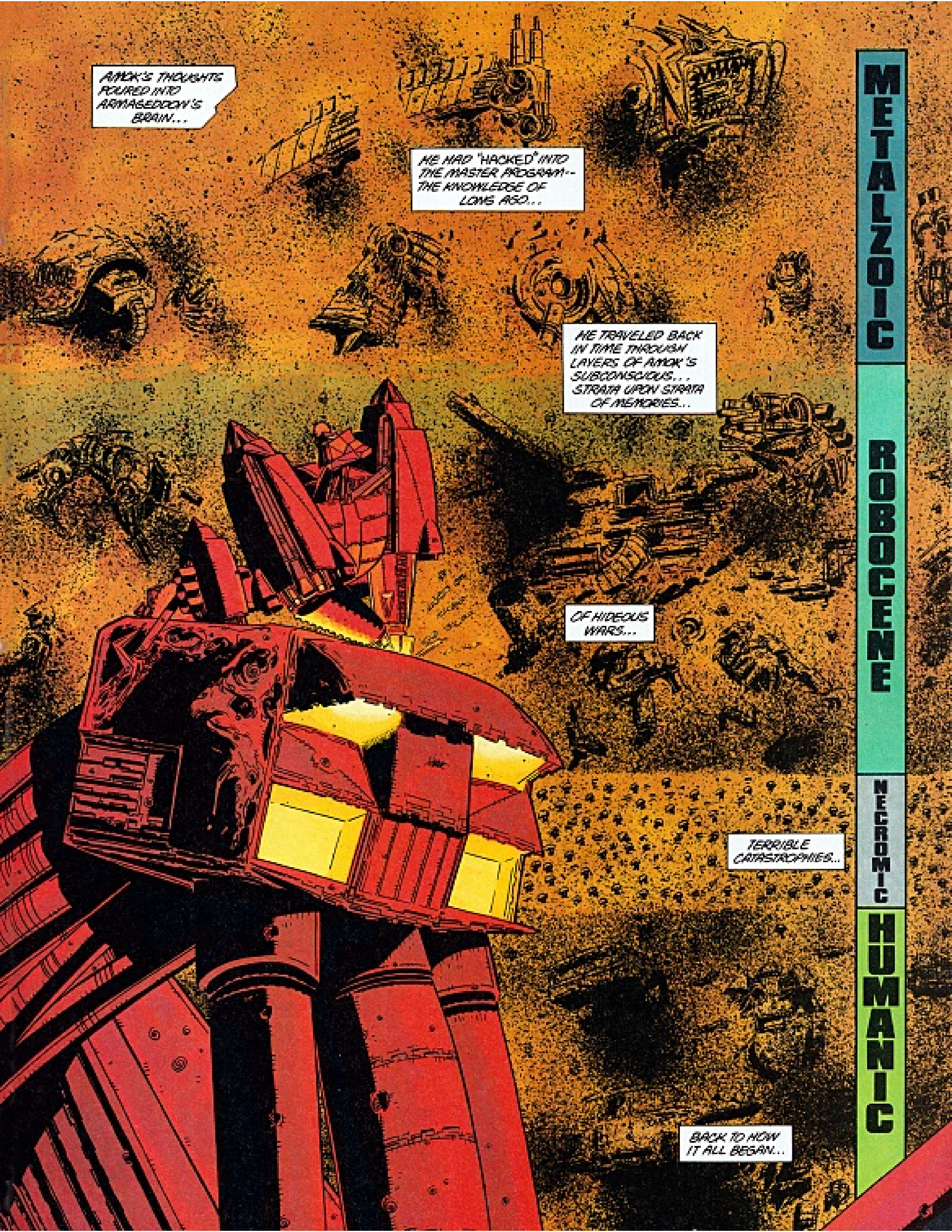

WHAT'S HE DOING?
BURYING THEM ALIVE...
HE HASN'T BROUGHT HIS HERD HERE FOR MORE ORE... BUT TO DIE!
THIS IS THE WHEELDEBEASTS' GRAVEYARD!
OF COURSE! HE INTENDS TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE HERD-- RATHER THAN HAND OVER CONTROL!
NOT IF WE KILL HIM FIRST!






ARMAGEDDON DREW ON INTI'S POWER...

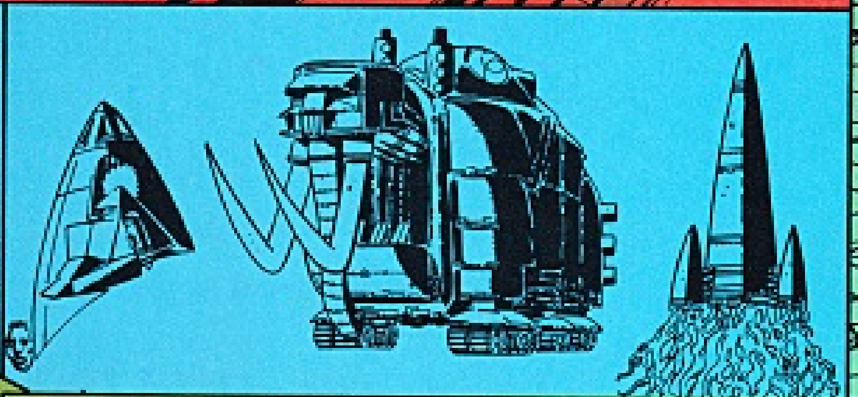



AMOK'S THOUGHTS POURED INTO ARMAGEDDON'S BRAIN...
HE HAD "HACKED" INTO THE MASTER PROGRAM-- THE KNOWLEDGE OF LONG AGO...
HE TRAVELED BACK IN TIME THROUGH LAYERS OF AMOK'S SUBCONSCIOUS... STRATA UPON STRATA OF MEMORIES...
OF HIDEOUS WARS...
TERRIBLE CATASTROPHIES...
BACK TO HOW IT ALL BEGAN...
METALZOIC
ROBOGENE
NECROMIC
HUMANIC

METALZOIC

Only a few aboriginal humans now survive (attempts to recolonize Earth from other worlds having failed).

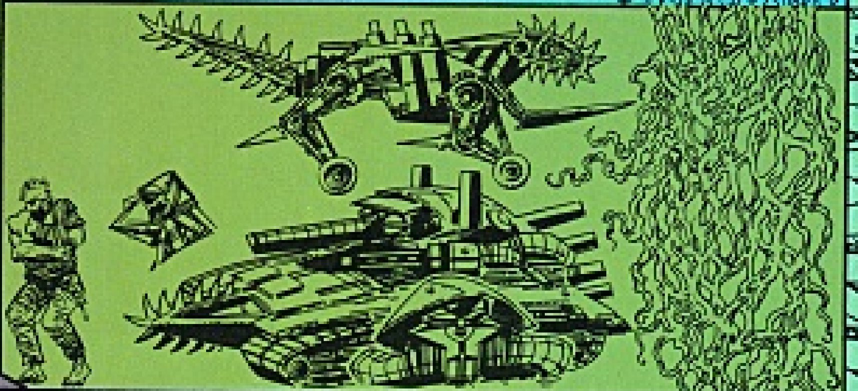
Robot animals look strangely like their organic predecessors as their bodies adapt to similar circumstances. Feeding on traffids, sunlight, and other forms of energy, they have diversified into numerous variations.



ROBOCENE

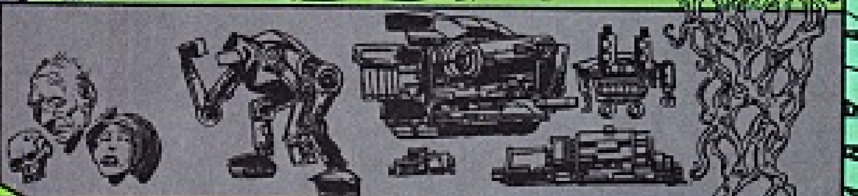
During the Robocene there were huge wars between the free Robots for domination of the Earth. All robo-species—humanoid and machine—engaged in battle, with computers assisting both sides.

The survivors were those Robots who could reproduce themselves and adapt to a devastated world. These survivors cross-bred. The result—the first Robot animals—begin to appear in the Upper Robocene.



NECROMIC

In the 24th Century the Earth's magnetic field cut out. The planet was bombarded with cosmic rays which destroyed most life-forms. Robots and the hardy Traffids were the main survivors.

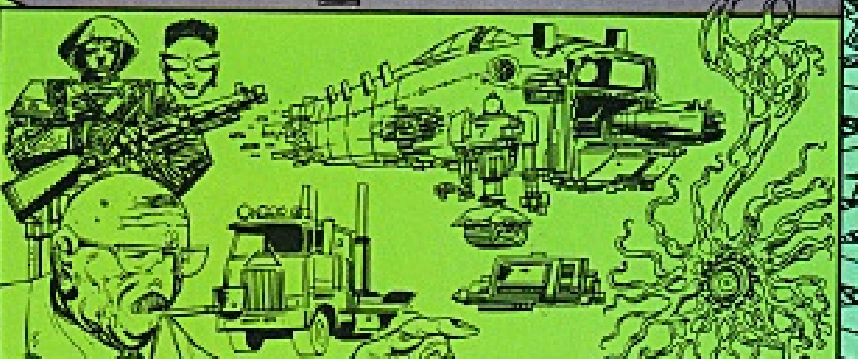


HUMANIC

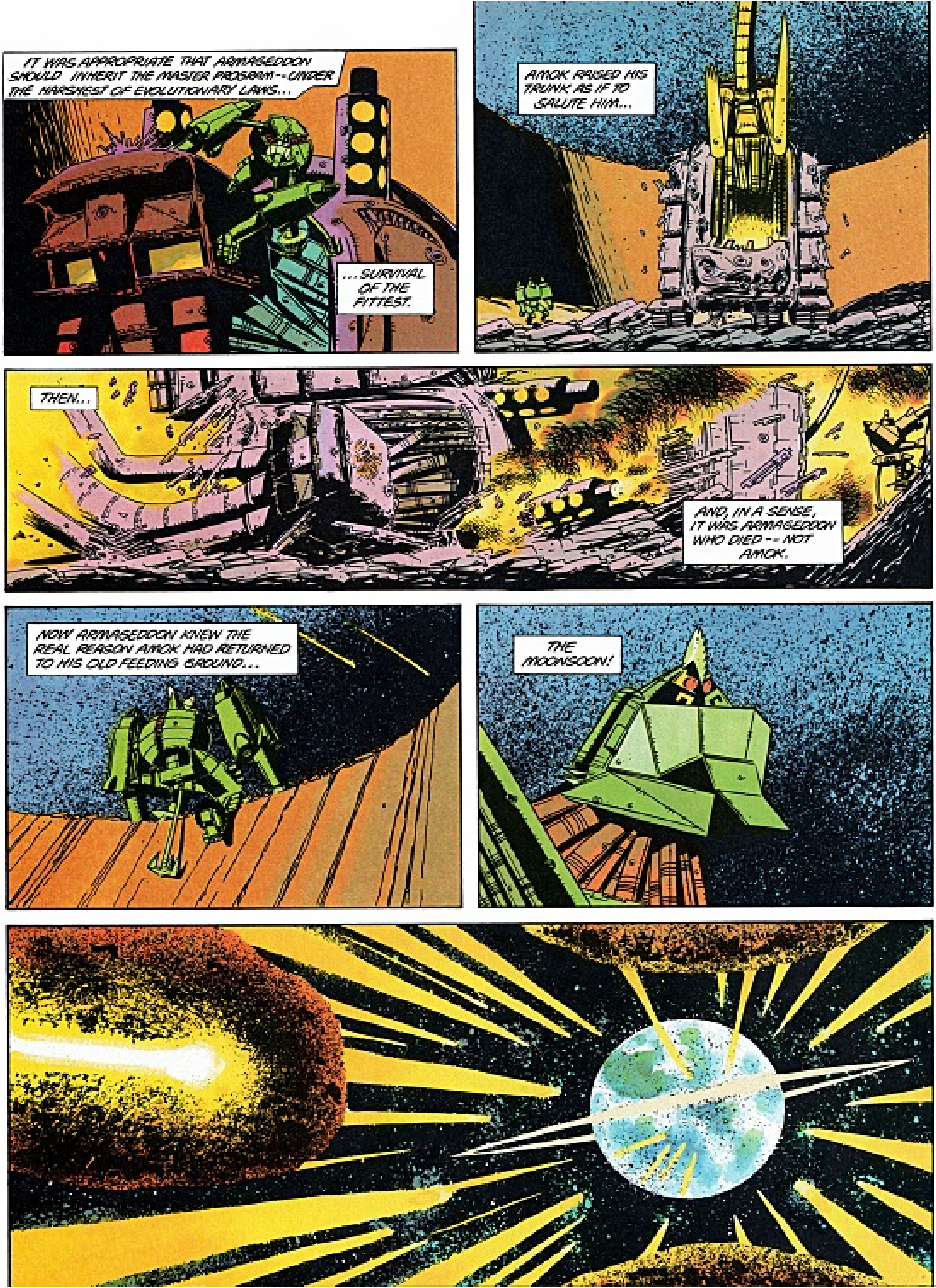
By the 22nd Century, Robots were commonplace on Earth.

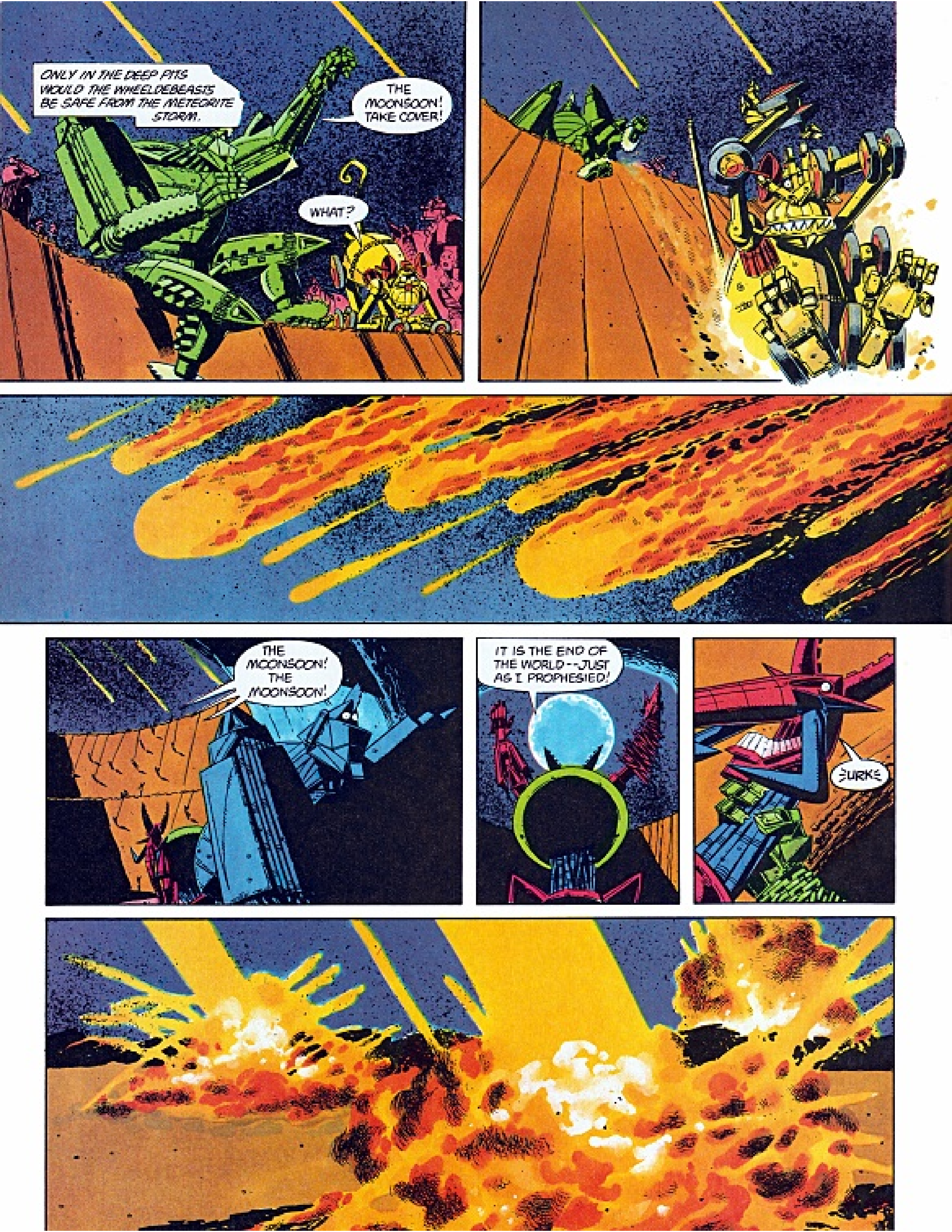
The self-reproducing versions were originally built to colonize other worlds. These giant machines manufactured copies of themselves by consuming and processing rocks. They were capable of making independent decisions and designing mutations to deal with localized conditions.

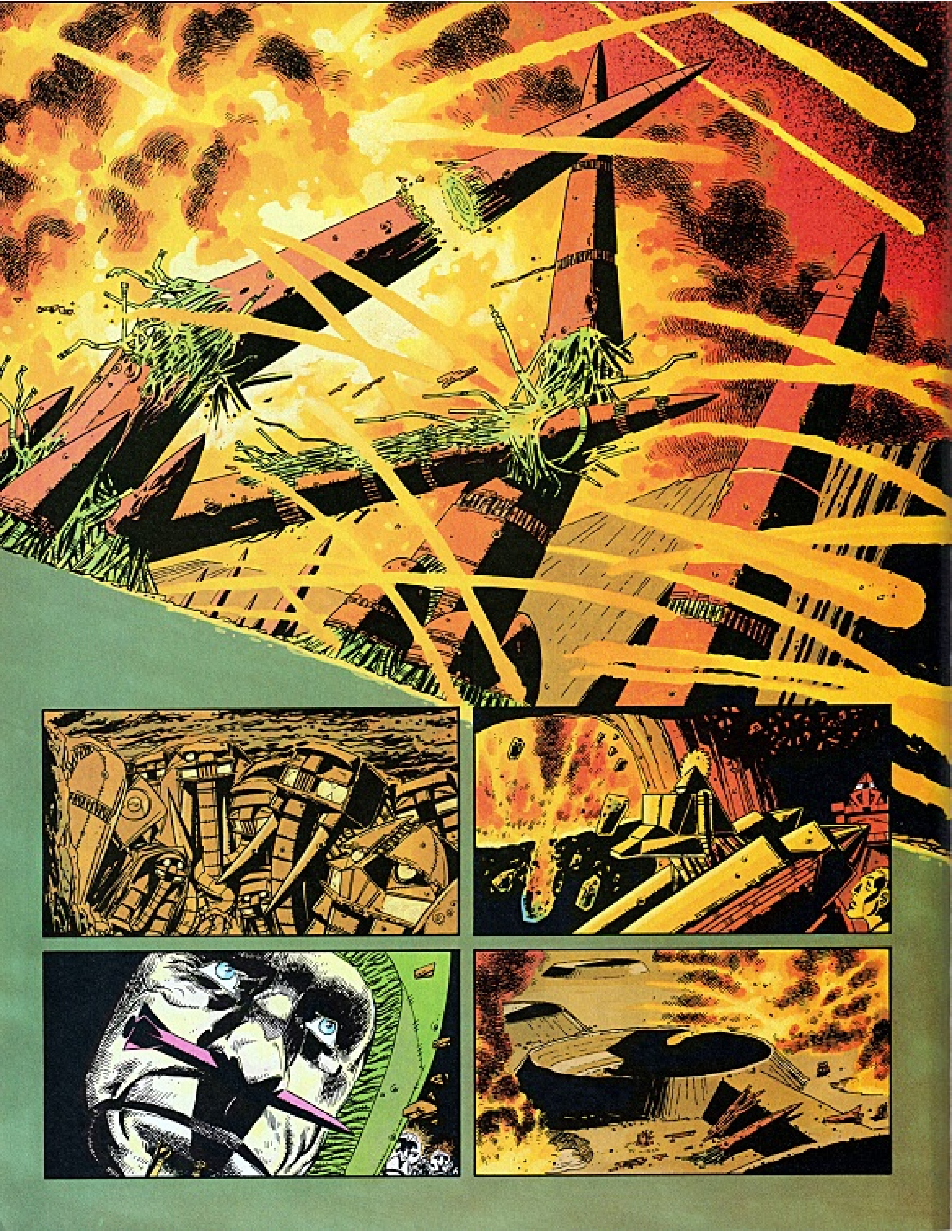
Their astonishing success led to many Robots on Earth being given the ability to repair and reproduce themselves.

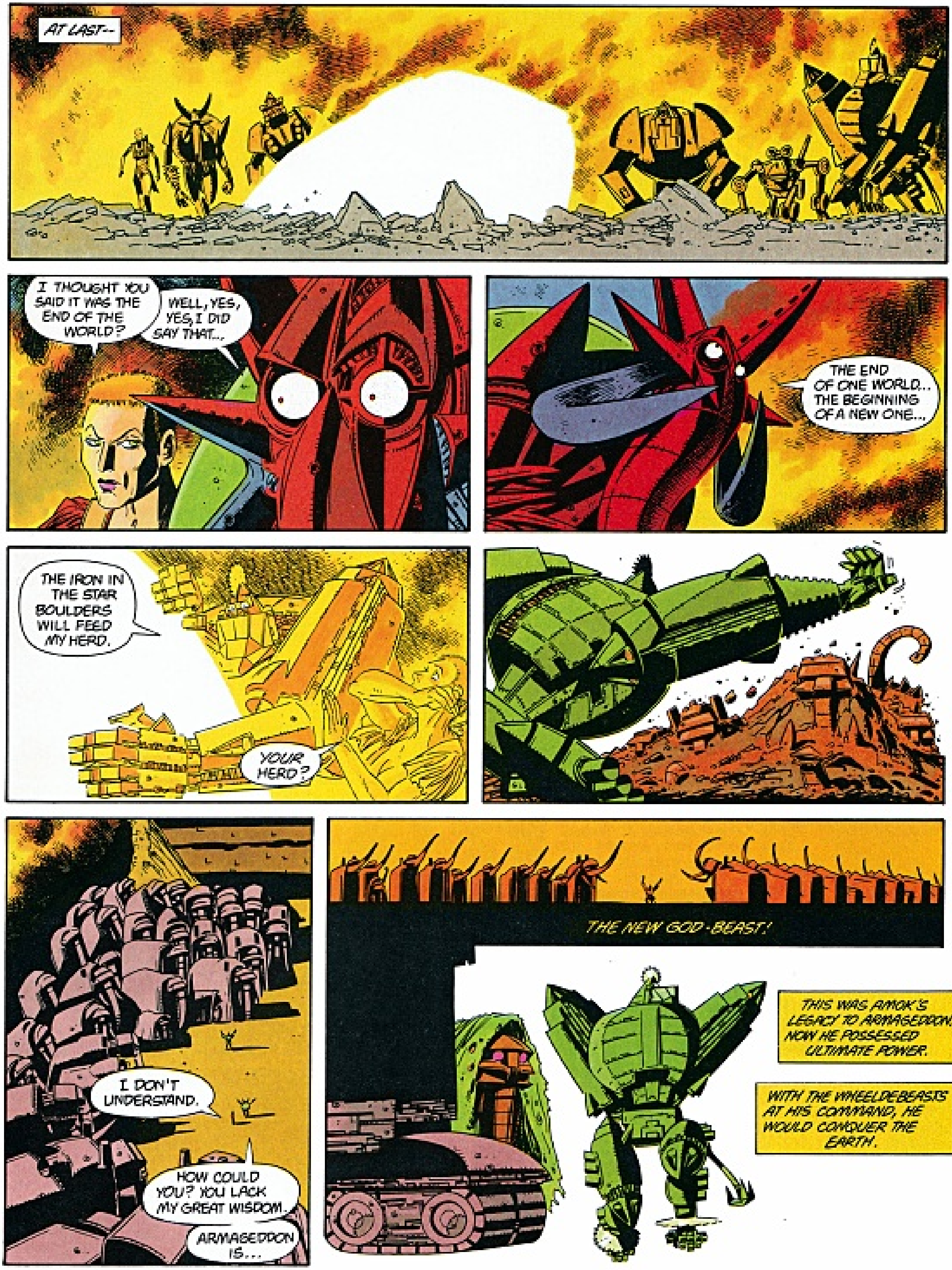


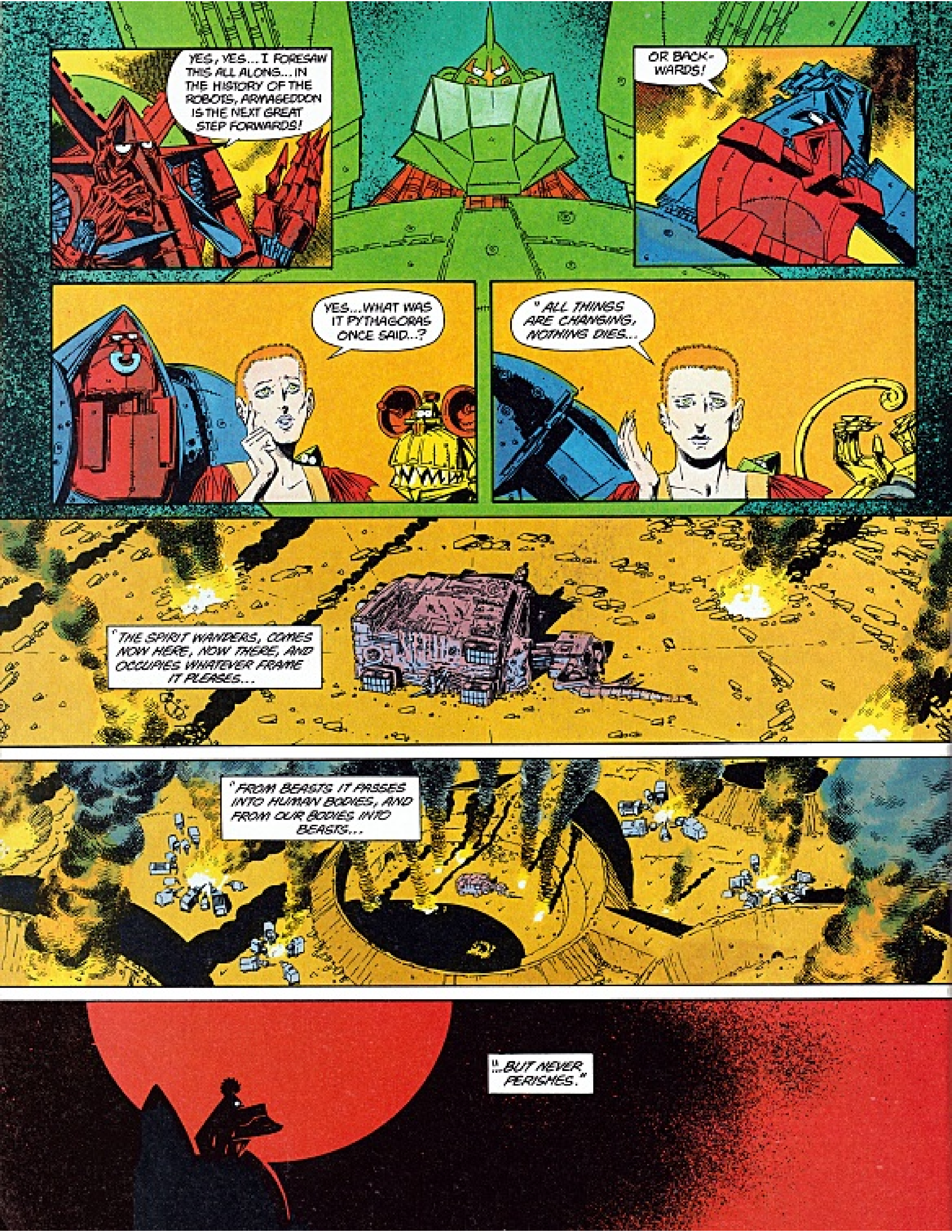
THE EVOLUTION of the ROBOTS

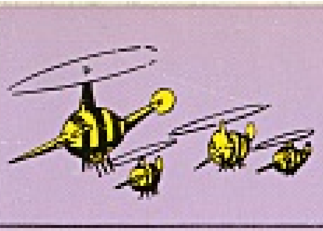

IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT ARMAGEDDON SHOULD INHERIT THE MASTER PROGRAM--UNDER THE HARSHEST OF EVOLUTIONARY LAWS...
...SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.
AMOK RAISED HIS TRUNK AS IF TO SALUTE HIM...
THEN...
AND, IN A SENSE, IT WAS ARMAGEDDON WHO DIED -- NOT AMOK.
NOW ARMAGEDDON KNEW THE REAL REASON AMOK HAD RETURNED TO HIS OLD FEEDING GROUND...
THE MOONSOON!


ONLY IN THE DEEP PITS WOULD THE WHEELDEBEASTS BE SAFE FROM THE METEORITE STORM.
THE MOONSOON! TAKE COVER!
WHAT?
THE MOONSOON! THE MOONSOON!
IT IS THE END OF THE WORLD--JUST AS I PROPHESIED!
URK

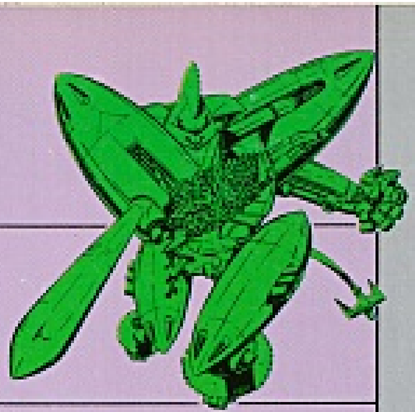



AT LAST--
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD?
WELL, YES, YES, I DID SAY THAT...
THE END OF ONE WORLD... THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ONE...
THE IRON IN THE STAR BOULDERS WILL FEED MY HERD.
YOUR HERD?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HOW COULD YOU? YOU LACK MY GREAT WISDOM.
ARMAGEDDON IS...
THE NEW GOD-BEAST!
THIS WAS AMOK'S LEGACY TO ARMAGEDDON... NOW HE POSSESSED ULTIMATE POWER.
WITH THE WHEELDEBEASTS AT HIS COMMAND, HE WOULD CONQUER THE EARTH.


YES, YES... I FORESAW THIS ALL ALONG... IN THE HISTORY OF THE ROBOTS, ARMAGEDDON IS THE NEXT GREAT STEP FORWARDS!
OR BACK-WARDS!
YES... WHAT WAS IT PYTHAGORAS ONCE SAID...?
"ALL THINGS ARE CHANGING, NOTHING DIES...
"THE SPIRIT WANDERS, COMES NOW HERE, NOW THERE, AND OCCUPIES WHATEVER FRAME IT PLEASES...
"FROM BEASTS IT PASSES INTO HUMAN BODIES, AND FROM OUR BODIES INTO BEASTS...
"...BUT NEVER PERISHES."



ENVISION A WORLD . . .

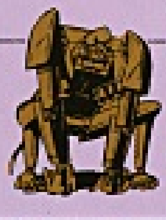


Where the savagery of the forgotten past merges with the technology of the far future...

Where living robots replicate the organic forms of ancient beasts to battle for survival...

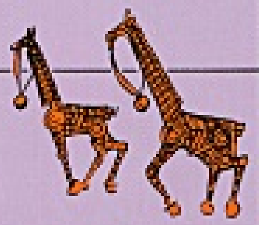
Where steel-skinned primates fight to the death against wire-maned, chainsaw-jawed lions...

And where two creatures—ARMAGEDDON the Ape-robot, and AMOK the Wheeldebeast—must soon clash in a struggle to determine who shall lead in this new world.



The world is EARTH—but not our Earth. This is the Earth of a future era.

The era known as



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